

**DIOXIN CONTAMINATION OF CERTAIN ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED
FOR HUMAN OR ANIMAL CONSUMPTION**

Supplementary Information from the European Communities

1. On 9 July 1999, the European Commission adopted Decision 1999/449/EC (published in the Official Journal of the European Communities L 175 of 10 July 1999), which repeals Decisions 1999/363/EC and 1999/389/EC as amended by Decisions 1999/390/EC and 1999/419/EC. This has created a single consolidated text covering all the measures to protect human and animal health following the contamination of compound feedingstuff with dioxin in Belgium in January 1999.
2. Decision 1999/449/EC adjusts the measures taken in the previous Decisions taking into account recent developments in investigations into the source and extent of the dioxin contamination.
3. In particular, the results of the scientific investigation conducted for dairy products have permitted the Commission, acting on the advice of the Standing Veterinary Committee, to lift the restrictions on Belgian milk and milk products. As a consequence, all Belgian milk products and products containing milk derivatives are now accepted as fit for human consumption, whatever the date of production.
4. Similarly, on the basis of scientific advice, the restrictions on egg products which consist solely of egg white have been lifted.
5. Decision 1999/449/EC also clarifies the situation with respect to some Belgian products for human consumption, which may contain a low percentage of animal fat. These products are free from restrictions as long as the animal fat (excluding milk fat) percentage is less than 2 per cent.
6. The standard health certificates laid down in Decisions 1999/390/EC and 1999/419/EC have been modified to take account of the new situation. However, certificates made in accordance with Decision 1999/390/EC and issued before the entry into force of Decision 1999/449/EC remain valid.
7. Maximum tolerance levels have been laid down in Annex A of the Decision for the seven PCB-congeners which are considered to be reliable indicators for the possible presence of dioxin in poultry meat, eggs, egg products and milk products in this particular case of contamination. The levels are based on the findings of a Commission working group and the recommendations of the Scientific Committee for Food. When analysis is required on other products, dioxin tests must be used.
8. The European Commission will remain in touch with the Belgian authorities and adjust the measures to take account of any new information.

9. To inform third countries on the implications of the adoption of the Decision the European Commission held a meeting in Brussels on 8 July 1999 to which all third country missions in Brussels were invited.

10. Copies of Commission Decision 1999/449/EC (available in all EC languages) can be obtained from the EC SPS Enquiry Point, or on the EUR-Lex site (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>).
