

## **Advice 04-2008 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: Us of water, which does not fully meet the standards of drinking-water, for the production of gelatine**

### **Summary**

This advice concerns the assessment of the risks related to the use of 'purified canal water' and 'process water' for the production of gelatine and the by-products animal fat, dicalcium phosphate and animal meal. The 'purified canal water' and the 'process water' are obtained after purification of the 'unprocessed canal water' from the Ghent Terneuzen canal.

The Scientific Committee states that the technical dossier submitted by the company has, in general, a solid scientific basis, and that it contains correct scientific information on the stages of the purification treatment. However, the HACCP plan still presents some gaps and the corrective actions are not mentioned.

The purification process applied to obtain 'purified canal water' does not present sufficient guarantee for the elimination of potential chemical contaminants from the 'unprocessed canal water'. More specifically, there is a problem if chemical peak concentrations in the canal water occur. It is therefore recommended to set up an 'alert system' for peak concentrations in the 'unprocessed canal water'.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the greatest risk with respect to the use of purified canal water is situated with the by-products animal fat, dicalcium phosphate and animal meal. The risk for gelatine is low but real.

In regard to 'process water', the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that, when applying the reverse osmosis purification process, the water obtained is nearly drinking water quality and that the risks related to its use are very low.

Concerning the microbiological quality, the use of both types of water in these production processes will not produce any appreciable public health risk.

The Scientific Committee recommends an increase of the test frequency and an extension of the spectrum of analysis tests for 'purified canal water', 'process water', gelatine, dicalcium phosphate and animal meal. These test results will allow the Scientific Committee to assess the risks related to the use of these types of water in a more thorough way.