

Advice 18-2008: Influence of new toxic equivalent factors, evolution of dioxins and dioxin-like PCB concentration in food, dietary exposure level to dioxins and dioxin-like PCB's (Dossier N° 2007/35)

Toxic equivalent factors (TEF) for dioxin-like compounds were reevaluated in June 2005 by Van den Berg *et al.* (2006). The Scientific Committee evaluated the influence of these new toxic equivalent factors on the content of dioxins and dioxin-like PCB toxic equivalent concentrations (TEQ) in food matrixes. Application of TEF 2005 in stead of TEF 1998 induces a diminution of dioxins and dioxin-like PCB WHO-TEQ concentration. The diminution found in food was in most cases between 10 and 20%.

The Scientific Committee has evaluated the evolution of the dioxin concentrations in cow milk and in breast milk. Dioxin concentrations have decreased in both matrixes since 1999. It was not possible for the Scientific Committee however to estimate the dietary exposure to dioxins and dioxin-like PCB's by lack of a sufficient number of data for a sufficient number of foodstuffs.