

Advice 01-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: Proposition for a microbial process guideline and temperature prescriptions in consumption blood

This advice of the Scientific Committee concerns a demand from the blood processing industry to authorise a derogation of the temperature criterion of 3°C during transport of fresh blood from the slaughterhouse to the blood processing company. Furthermore, an advice is asked concerning a proposition for microbiological guidelines for blood intended for human consumption.

In consideration of food safety, the Scientific Committee does not agree with the proposed microbiological guidelines for the total aerobic mesophilic count (10^5 cfu/g (target) and 10^6 cfu/g (tolerance)) and proposes on the other hand a reduction to 10^4 cfu/g (target) and 10^5 cfu/g (tolerance). The Scientific Committee agrees with the guideline for Salmonella (absence in 25g), but is of the opinion that in addition also guidelines for other pathogens and indicator organisms are indicated. Based on the available information, the Scientific Committee concludes that a derogation of the temperature norm of 3°C during the transport of fresh blood can be allowed. A temperature of 7°C can be used when the blood is collected within 24 hours after slaughter and when the transformation is also started within these 24 hours. However, when the blood is collected in the slaughterhouse and transformed after 24 hours, it has to be cooled to 4°C, on the condition that the blood is collected and that the transformation has started within 36 hours after slaughtering the animals. The Scientific Committee emphasizes that this derogation of the temperature can only be allowed when an adequate control on the compliance with these conditions can be executed. Concerning the evaluation of the question whether the blood temperature at the moment of arrival at the blood transforming company can reach 9°C, there is insufficient information available. Finally, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion, considering food safety, that the temperature prescriptions, as described above, need to be taken into account also when the blood is collected within 2 hours after slaughter.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".