

Rapid consultation 05-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the migration of 4-methylbenzophenone from the printing of the cardboard packaging to breakfast cereals (dossier 2009/05)

The Scientific Committee received an urgent request on the presence of 4-methylbenzophenone in muesli with chocolate pieces. 4-methylbenzophenone is a photo initiator and can, under certain conditions, migrate from the outer cardboard and the inner plastic packaging to the product. Since toxicological data on 4-methylbenzophenone are lacking, the risk assessment was based on the group TDI of 0.01 mg/kg bw per day for benzophenone and 4-hydroxybenzofenon, which are structurally related. Based on the available informations, the exposure of children can amount to 150-180% of the TDI, which indicates a risk.

In the margin of this rapid consultation, the Scientific Committee wishes to remark explicitly that the issue regarding migration of photo-initiators (and other packaging components) towards foodstuffs should be followed closely.

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