SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Scientific Opinion on the Neste Oil Application for a new alternative method of disposal or use of Animal By-Products

EFSA Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)\textsuperscript{2,3}

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy

SUMMARY

Following a request from the Finnish Competent Authority, the Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) was asked to deliver a scientific opinion on the Neste Oil Application for a new alternative method of disposal or use of Animal By-Products (ABPs).

In its dossier, the Neste Oil Company asked for approval of a method, known as the “Renewable Fuel” method, for the treatment and disposal of Category 1 and Category 2 rendered animal fat obtained from animal by-products that have been produced according to processing method 1 as referred to in Annex V, Chapter III of Commission Regulation (EC) 1774/2002\textsuperscript{4} and for the treatment of Category 3 rendered animal fat that has been produced according to any of the processing methods 1 to 7 as referred to in the same Annex.

According to the applicant, the proposed process technology consists of a pre-treatment and of a continuous multiple step catalytic process. The main steps of interest for this assessment are called hydrodeoxygenation and isomerisation by the applicant. The production process can utilize a mixture of vegetable-oil and animal fat as feedstock.

The BIOHAZ Panel assessed the application following the scheme proposed in the “Guidelines for applications for new alternative methods of disposal or use of animal by-products” prepared jointly by the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (DG SANCO) and EFSA\textsuperscript{5}.

The Panel concluded that, in principle, the Neste Oil “Renewable Fuel” method may be appropriate for the safe destruction of BSE/TSE infectivity in animal waste. However, the company has provided

\textsuperscript{1} On request from the Finnish Competent Authority, Question No EFSA-Q-2009-00856, adopted on 22 September 2010.
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minimal data to support this conclusion (e.g. no quantitative estimate of the risk reduction level for Cat. 1 material was given). In the absence of such supporting data, the “Renewable Fuel” method cannot be considered safe for the treatment of such Category 1 wastes. The process proposed by Neste Oil can be considered to be safe for the treatment of Cat. 2 and 3 rendered animal fat since the input materials have already undergone a process ensuring adequate risk reduction.

The BIOHAZ Panel recommended that the Neste Oil “Renewable Fuel” method should be appropriately validated for ensuring the safety of processing Cat. 1 ABPs.