International Alliance for
Biological Standardization

Avoiding Antimicrobial Resistance: Veterinary Use of Phages for Prevention, Therapy and Control of Bacterial Infections

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Virtual Meeting

EFSA's experience in the risk assessment of bacteriophages intended to be used as feed additives'

Feed additives are products used in animal nutrition for purposes of improving the quality of feed and the quality of food from animal origin, or to improve the animals' performance and health. Feed additives may not be put on the European Union (EU) market unless an authorisation has been granted following a scientific evaluation demonstrating that the additive has no harmful effects, on human and animal health and on the environment. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is responsible for carrying out this evaluation to support EU risk managers in their decision-making process. The process entails a request for authorisation from business operators wishing to place the product in the EU market which should be accompanied by a technical dossier containing the data underpinning the scientific evaluation and subsequent authorisation. The EFSA Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP) provides scientific advice to risk managers on the safety and/or efficacy of additives and products or substances used in animal feed. The FEEDAP Panel evaluates their safety and/or efficacy for the target species, the user, the consumer of products of animal origin and the environment. It also looks at the efficacy of biological and chemical products/substances intended for deliberate use in animal feed. In 2021 the FEEDAP Panel adopted its first opinion on a product composed by bacteriophages and intended for use as a feed additive to reduce the *Salmonella* contamination in poultry and the environment. In that opinion, the safety of the product could be established, but not its efficacy. A second inconclusive opinion on the efficacy of the product was adopted in 2023. The presentation will address the challenges encountered when assessing the data concerning this phage preparation.