

WHO Expert Meeting to Review Toxicological Aspects of Melamine and Cyanuric Acid

MoniQA's associate partner in Canada, the Bureau of Chemical Safety in Health Canada's Food Directorate and acting as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Food Contamination Monitoring is supporting the organization of the expert meeting announced by the World Health Organization to review toxicological aspects of melamine and cyanuric acid. This meeting is held in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and will take place December 1-4, 2008 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcome

To review current knowledge on:

- Chemistry of melamine alone and in combination with its analogues (e.g. cyanuric acid)
- Analytical methods relative to detection of these chemical substances in various foods
- Occurrence of melamine in foods as a result of normal food production and processing (e.g. from migration of food contact material, pesticide or fertilizer use) as opposed to adulteration
- Toxicity of melamine alone and in combination with its analogues (e.g. cyanuric acid)
- Human health risk assessment, including species sensitivities and sensitive sub-populations
- Knowledge gaps

The outcome of the expert meeting is expected to provide a description and analysis of, at least, the following areas:

- Current state of knowledge on toxicology, exposure and analytical methodology
- Risk assessment, including attendant uncertainties
- Knowledge gaps
- Conclusions and recommendations

For more information on this meeting, go to:

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan_events/en/index.html

Further information on the meeting outcomes will be made available on the WHO website and will further relayed by MoniQA.