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# PRESS RELEASE

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

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### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD : ANNUAL REPORT 1999

The 1999 Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food is published today.

The Committee was established in 1990 to provide the Government with independent advice on the microbiological safety of food. Its membership is drawn from microbiology, the medical and veterinary professions, the food industry, food science, retailing and research, consumer affairs and public and environmental health.

The Report, which contains a Foreword by the Chairman, Professor Douglas Georgala, reviews the work carried out by the Committee during 1999, reports on on-going work, and looks forward to the Committee's future work programme. Among the diverse topics covered are administrative matters (including membership and openness), microbiological food surveillance (covering raw and pasteurised milk and raw milk cheeses, and ready to eat chicken products), *Campylobacter*, *Listeria*, verocytotoxin-producing *E. coli* (VTEC), *Salmonella* in eggs, sewage sludge in French animal feed and the UK food hygiene initiative in schools. The Report also gives the Committee's terms of reference and membership, and contains a comprehensive Register of Members' Interests.

The 1999 Report is the eighth in the series.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> The Committee has also had published a series of subject-specific reports dealing with vacuum packaging and associated processes,<sup>8</sup> *Salmonella* in Eggs,<sup>9</sup> *Campylobacter*,<sup>10</sup> VTEC,<sup>11</sup> poultry meat,<sup>12</sup> foodborne viral infections,<sup>13</sup> and microbial antibiotic resistance in relation to food safety (the most recent, published in August 1999).<sup>14,15</sup> The Committee expects to be in a position to submit a further report on *Salmonella* in eggs during 2000.

The Committee's website can be found at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk>.

## Notes for Editors

The Committee is charged with providing the Food Standards Agency with independent advice on the microbiological safety of food. Its Chairman is Professor Douglas L Georgala, an independent scientific consultant and retired Director of the Institute of Food Research.

The Committee's terms of reference are to :-

*“assess the risk to humans of microorganisms which are used or occur in or on food and to advise Ministers on the exercise of powers in the Food Safety Act 1990 relating to the microbiological safety of food.”*

Copies of the Report are available from Room 429a Ergon House, Tel: 020 7238 6101  
e-mail: [liz.stretton@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.stretton@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

1. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1993). Report of Progress 1990-92. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321664-5.
2. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1994). Annual Report 1993. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321816-8.
3. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1995). Annual Report 1994. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321921-0.
4. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Annual Report 1995. Department of Health, Wetherby. ISBN 1 85839 5763.
5. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Annual Report 1996. Department of Health, Wetherby. ISBN 1 85839 7243.
6. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1998). Annual Report 1997. Department of Health.
7. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Annual Report 1998. Department of Health.
8. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1992). Report on Vacuum Packaging and Associated Processes. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321558-4.
9. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1993). Report on *Salmonella* in Eggs. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321568-1.
10. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1993). Interim Report on *Campylobacter*. HMSO, London. ISBN-0-11-321662-9.
11. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1995). Report on Verocytotoxin-Producing *Escherichia coli*. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321909-1.
12. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (1996). Report on Poultry Meat. HMSO, London. ISBN 0-11-321969-5.
13. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Report on Foodborne Viral Infections; 1998. London : The Stationery Office. ISBN 0-11-322254-8.

14. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Report on Microbial Antibiotic Resistance in Relation to Food Safety. The Stationery Office, London. ISBN 0-11-322283-1.

15. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Report on Microbial Antibiotic Resistance in Relation to Food Safety. Synopsis. The Stationery Office, London. ISBN 0-11-322295-5.