

SCIENCE BOARD TO THE FDA (Science Board)
Charge to the Science Board

The Interim Melamine and Analogues Safety/Risk Assessment (S/RA) describes the risk to human health associated with eating pork, chicken, fish and eggs from animals that had been inadvertently fed animal feed that may have been adulterated with melamine and its analogues (cyanuric acid, ammelide and ammeline). It was prepared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in collaboration with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture, and in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). FDA developed the S/RA in response to an ongoing investigation of contaminated vegetable protein products imported from China that were mislabeled as “wheat gluten” and “rice protein concentrate.” Based on currently available data and information, the results of the S/RA indicate that the consumption of pork, chicken, domestic fish, and eggs from animals inadvertently fed animal feed contaminated with melamine and its analogues is very unlikely to pose a human health risk.

Because of the potential impact of the S/RA on important public policies or private sector decisions, the agency requested a peer review of the S/RA by six independent experts (peer reviewers). The peer reviewers were provided with a copy of the S/RA and a written charge. The peer reviewers provided written comments. The names and professional affiliations of the independent peer reviewers, the peer review charge questions, the comments of the reviewers (masked as to the source of each particular comment), and the FDA’s response to them are contained in the report entitled “Interim Melamine and Analogues Safety/Risk Assessment Draft Peer Review Report.”.

Based on the information you have received about the S/RA, including the peer review comments and FDA response, do you have any further comments or suggestions for the agency concerning the S/RA?