



Update on food supplements



Introduction

- Setting the scene – Clair Baynton
- Current issues – Clair Baynton
- Forthcoming work – Trudy Netherwood



Setting the scene

- EC Food Supplements Directive agreed in 2002
- Subject to Judicial review by the ECJ
- Related legislation – Nutrition and health claims and addition of vitamins and minerals to foods
- Consumer research



UK supplements market (2006)

- Total = £364M
- Manufacturers – Seven Seas, Bayer, Boots, Other brands, Own brands
- Retailers – Boots and other chemists, Grocery multiples, Health food stores, Others (inc internet/mail order)



Current situations

- EFSA opinions on one page dossiers and vanadium supplements
- Folic acid and vitamin A
- Channel islands



EFSA statement – one page dossiers/vanadium

- Directive contains lists of vitamins and minerals and their sources
- Derogation allows substances to remain on market
- Commission accepted basic dossiers allowing substances to remain on the market
- Companies reminded that additional information required.
- EFSA – safety of substances cannot be assessed due to lack of appropriate dossiers
- EFSA – safe use of 6 vanadium sources could not be established
- Decision regarding status to be taken at the EC Standing Committee



Folic acid and Vitamin A

- Labelling of Vitamin A supplements following advice from SACN
- Levels of folic acid in supplements



Channel Islands

- Illegal and unfair competition from CI-based businesses
- Working with Ministry of Justice and MHRA
- Meetings held with Jersey and Guernsey



Forthcoming work

- Setting maximum level of vitamins and minerals in foods – EC proposals expected January 2009
- Applies to supplements and fortified Foods



Progress to date

- UK Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals report - 2003
- Commission discussion document – 2006
- Orientation paper – 2007
- Bilateral meetings with member states
- EC working group meetings



Board discussions to date

- September 2005 – two tier approach
- September 2006 – UK response to Commission discussion document
- Safety based approach to setting levels with consumer choice through labelling
- Proportionate approach in line with principles of better regulation



Moving forward

- Proposals expected January 2009
- EC working groups and bilateral meetings
- Decisions to be taken at EC Standing Committee
- Encourage Commission to allow time for stakeholder consultation
- Board to be kept informed as discussions progress

