

## Fipronil, additional results (08/08/2017)

On 2 June 2017, the FASFC received the first notification from a Belgian establishment whose own analyses had revealed a potential problem with fipronil. During the subsequent judicial inquiry, the Food Agency blocked 86 businesses as well as all the products present in these businesses, in accordance with the European procedure. In accordance with regulations, the Agency also took duplicate egg samples so as to confirm or rule out the farm contamination.

The initial analysis result of a blocked farm, where samples were taken on 18 July, revealed a fipronil level of 0.076 mg/kg, which is thus significantly below the European safety threshold. However, the farm owner exercised his right of second opinion and the second analysis carried out on this second sample revealed a level of 0.92 mg/kg, which exceeds the European safety threshold.

The FASFC and the laboratories concerned are now carrying out an investigation to shed light on this discrepancy in the analysis results and the Agency hopes to clarify the situation as soon as possible. The FASFC wants to communicate transparently and proactively inform the population. The eggs were blocked on 18 July and therefore, did not reach the consumer.

The public prosecutor's office, which was informed of the contamination on 19 July 2017, is conducting an inquiry into the presence of fipronil in the poultry sector, with the support of the FASFC. This product has fraudulently ended up in the food chain. Fipronil is not authorized and thus illegal.

The contaminated eggs were not supplied to the customers and consequently not exported. Nevertheless, for the sake of transparency, the FASFC will warn the other European countries today through the RASFF system (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed).