



Federal Agency for the  
Safety of the Food Chain

Control Policy  
Directorate of Animal Health and  
Safety of Animal Products

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## To whom it may concern

The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) discovered illegal use of fipronil for the treatment of red lice (*Dermanyssus gallinae*) in poultry farms, following the notification in June this year of the presence of this substance in an egg sample taken by a food business operator in the frame of his own-check system. The investigation was carried out by the FASFC in close collaboration with the justice department.

The MRL (maximum residue level) for fipronil in eggs is 0.005 mg/kg (being the lower limit of analytical determination) according to European Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin.

Following the investigation, 86 suspected farms (layer farms, farms with parent stock and with pullets) were blocked and are only released in case of compliant analysis results below the MRL of egg samples. In addition, the FASFC also carries out a monitoring in all non-suspected layer farms and in egg processing plants and slaughterhouses. In case the MRL is exceeded, eggs and egg products are immediately withdrawn from the market.

The FASFC takes into account the Acute Reference Dose (ARfD) of 0.009 mg/kg bodyweight, established by EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), to estimate the potential health risk. We can conclude that fipronil concentrations found so far don't pose health problems. Products would be recalled in case fipronil concentrations in eggs exceed 0.72 mg/kg (based on the ARfD and European consumption data for children).

The task of the Agency is to guarantee the safety of the food chain and the quality of our food so as to protect the health of humans, animals and plants.

The FASFC will communicate about the investigation and the measures that are taken on the English website ([www.favv.be](http://www.favv.be)). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would have further questions.

Brussels, the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2017.



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