



**EU REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES**

# Microbiological shelf-life studies

**Annie Beaufort**  
**LSAI, EURL Lm, Mission MOD/AQR**



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**Implementation of a specific point**

**of the Regulation No 2073/2005 on  
microbiological criteria for foodstuffs**

## The specific point (Article 3)

“...the FBOs....shall conduct studies **in accordance with Annex II of the regulation 2073** ... in order to investigate compliance with the criteria throughout the shelf-life.”

“ In particular, ...for RTE foods able to support the growth of *Listeria monocytogenes*....”

## Annex II specifies the data and studies to use

- ❖ Characteristics of the product: physical-chemical characteristics, preservatives content, type of packaging, process, foreseen shelf-life.
- ❖ Available scientific literature and research data regarding the growth and survival characteristics of the micro-organisms of concern.

And, when necessary,

- ❖ Predictive microbiology
- ❖ Durability studies
- ❖ Challenge tests.

# Work programme for 2015

- ❖ To analyse **the food temperature data** included in the European baseline survey related to the prevalence of *L. monocytogenes* in RTE foods.
- ❖ To organise **a two-day training session on shelf-life studies**, session taking into account the new version of the “ Technical Guidance Document for conducting shelf-life studies on Lm in RTE foods
- ❖ To launch **the revision of the guide related to the competence of laboratories implementing challenge tests**
- ❖ To participate to **the ISO/TC 34/ SC 9, WG 19 in charge of developing a CEN ISO Standard on challenge tests in food**

# Presentations

- Introduction (Annie BEAUFORT, EURL *Lm*)
- EURL *Lm* Technical guidance document for conducting shelf-life studies on *L. monocytogenes* in RTE Foods (Annie BEAUFORT)
- Development of the CEN ISO Standard on challenge tests (Annie BEAUFORT)
- Improvement of the initial contamination to conduct challenge-tests for *L. monocytogenes* (Anne Laure LARDEUX)
- Characterization of the temperature distribution in Europe at retail level (Hélène BERGIS)
- Presentation of the IT tool of STARTEC (decision-support tools for healthy and vulnerable consumers) (Taran SKJERDAL, NO-NRL)



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