



Industry set for mass withdrawals on claims applications

EU Food Law Weekly
Friday June 19 2009

There could be mass withdrawals in future of applications for claims while EFSA is in the middle of assessing dossiers, industry consultants said this week. This followed the move by the NDA panel to enter into more dialogue with applicants, set out at the meeting in Brussels on Monday.

Nigel Baldwin at Cantox International said he thought companies would take the option to withdraw their application if in their communication with EFSA they felt a negative Opinion might be issued.

The last thing a company wants is a published negative Opinion from EFSA and they might instead withdraw and possibly come back at a later stage with further studies and information, he said.

Baldwin welcomes the move by EFSA to say it will raise queries with applicants and use the stop-the-clock procedure more, which is given in the regulation. But he thinks the stop-the-clock deadlines are far too tight to give time for meaningful discussion or much new information. "The stop-the-clock deadlines should be removed," he told **EU Food Law**.

"The industry wants to reduce the number of negative Opinions from EFSA and industry would rather withdraw than have a negative Opinion," he said.

He said that with additives, EFSA takes a different line and there have been few negative Opinions. This is because the panel had asked for more studies where it had concerns and made clear that unless it received the studies it would issue a negative view. At this point companies withdraw, sometimes coming back much later with new studies.

© 2009 Agra Informa Ltd.

The content of this web site is copyright by Agra Informa Ltd. Reproduction, retrieval, copying or transmission of the content of this site is not permitted without the publisher's prior consent.

[Privacy Policy](#)