

Management of the risk posed by STEC in food: STEC guidance

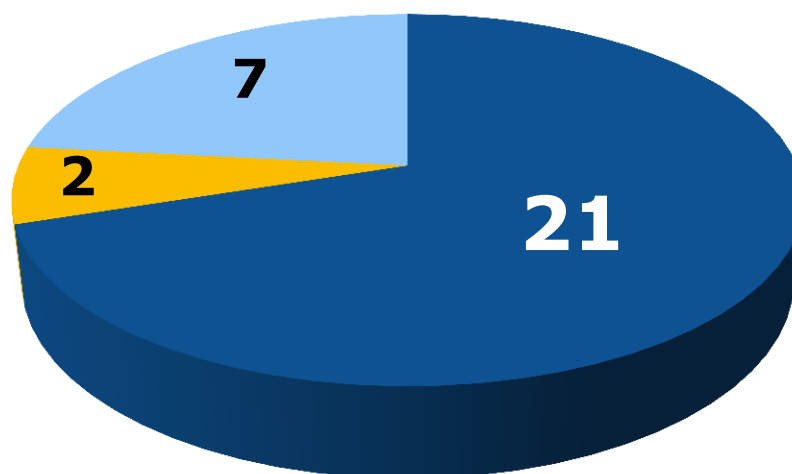
**Draft guidance document on the application
of article 14 of GFL as regards food
contaminated with STEC – Rev. 5**

**EURL VTEC Workshop 5-6 Nov 2015
Pamina Suzuki – DG SANTE, Unit G4**

1. Outcome STEC questionnaire

2. Draft STEC guidance – Rev 5

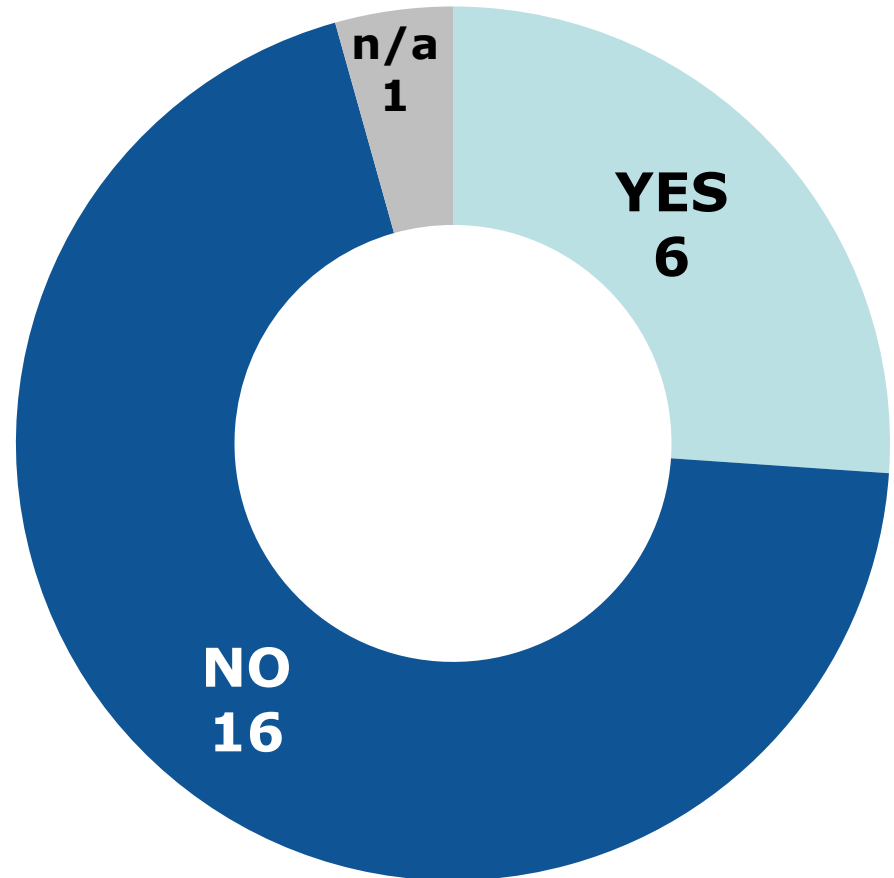
Number of questionnaires received



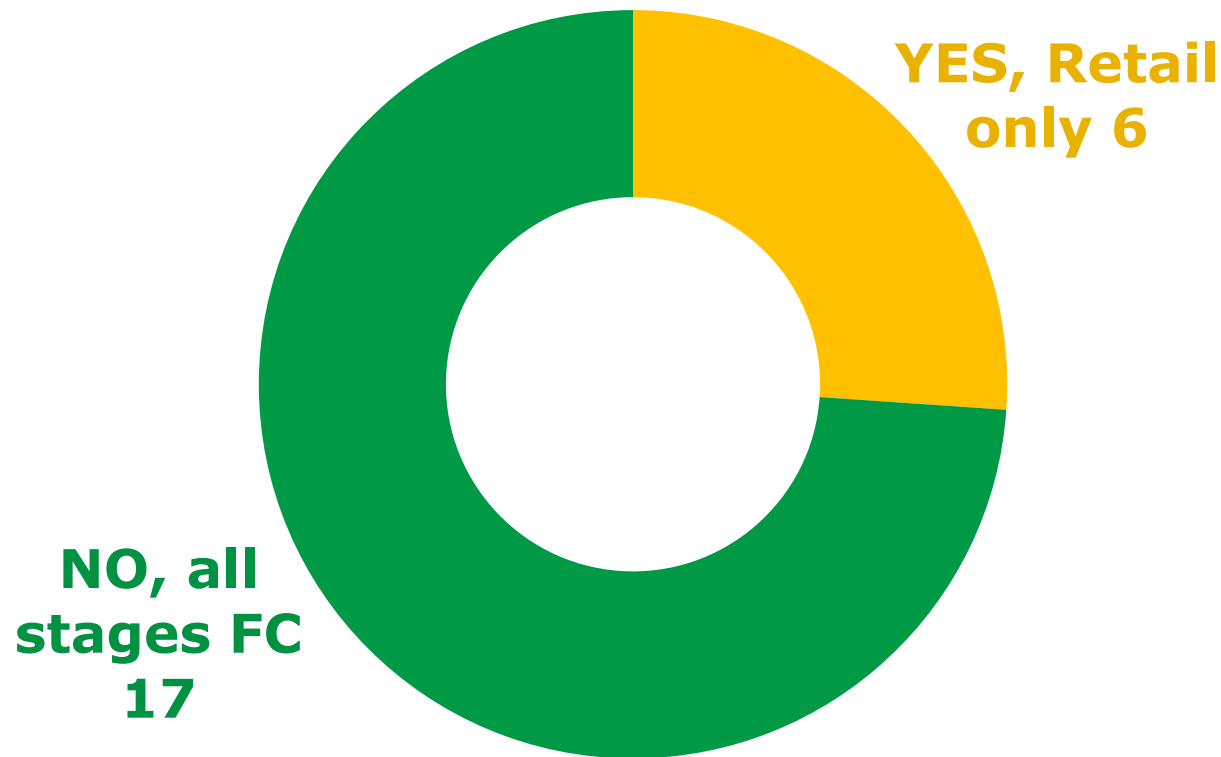
■ questionnaires EU-MS
■ no questionnaire (EU-MS)

■ questionnaires non-EU States

Taking into account the 2013 EFSA scientific opinion on "VTEC-seropathotype and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment" , should DG SANTE continue to consider the seropathotype approach (Karmali et al., 2003) as suitable to categorise VTEC strains according to their potential to cause serious human diseases?



Do you think that the scope of the STEC guidance should be limited to retail level only rather than considering all stages of the food chain (e.g. also carcass level)?

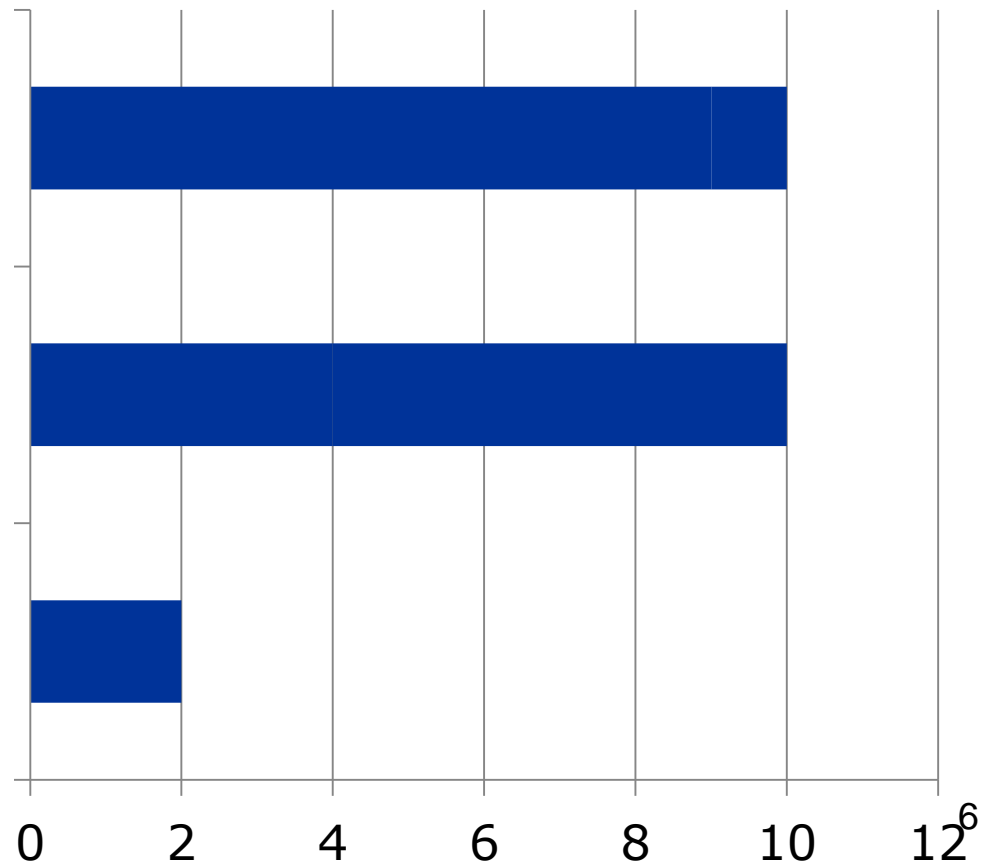


Risk management recommendations: taking into account the exposure assessment and the hazard characterisation, which of the following approaches should be recommended?

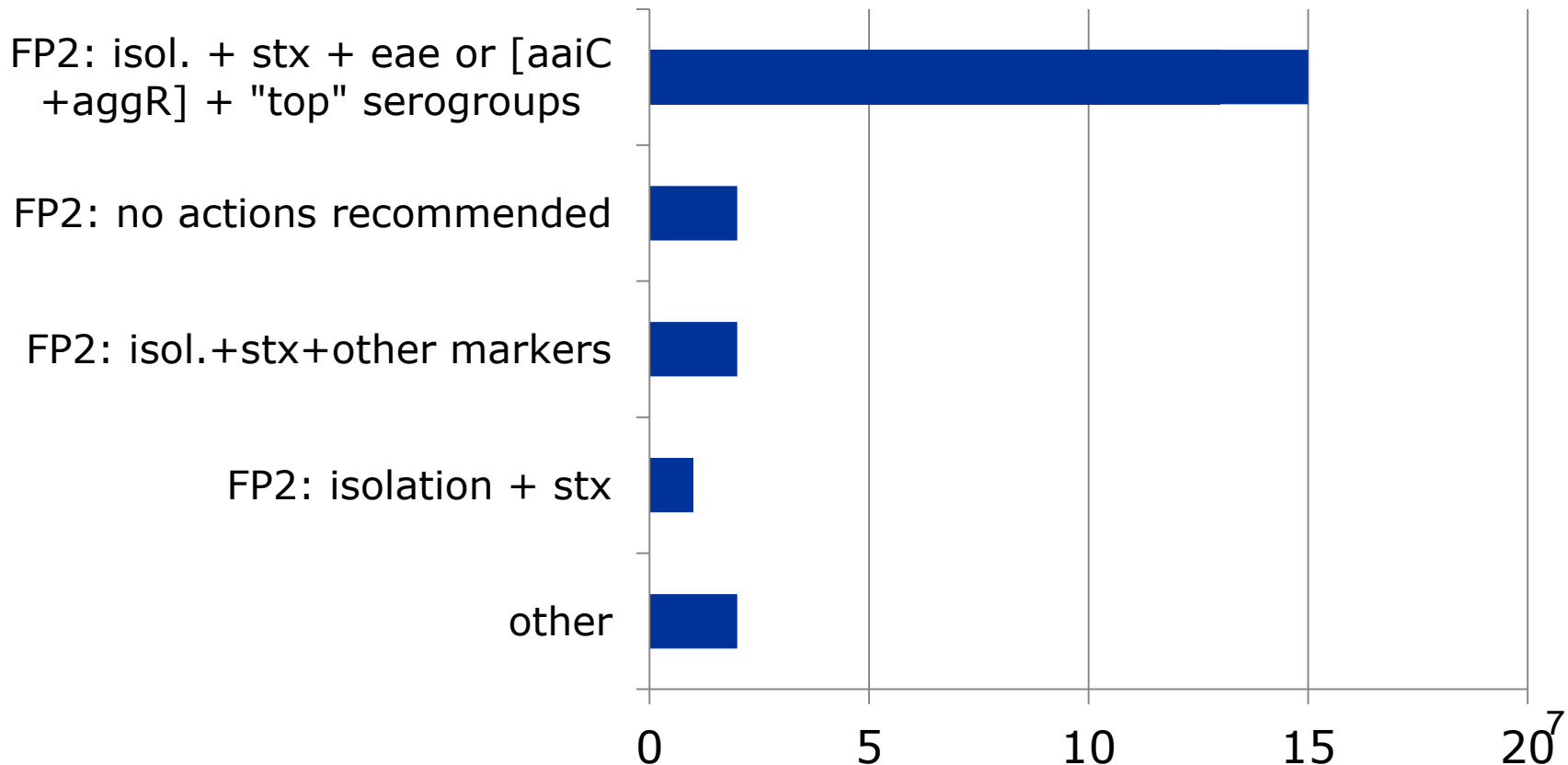
FP1: isolation + stx + eae or
[aaiC +aggR]

FP1: isolation + stx

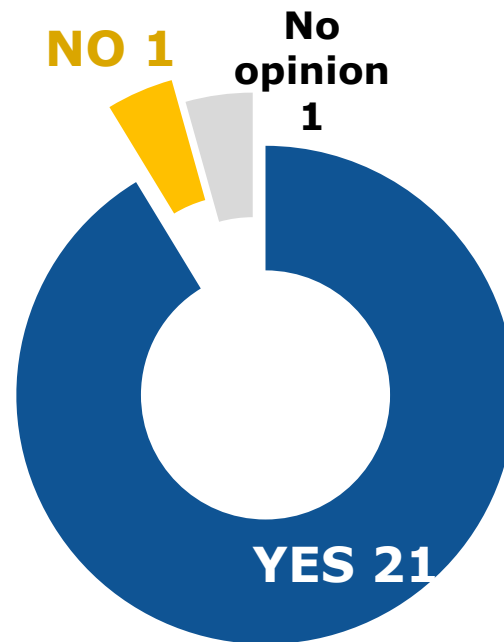
Other



Risk management recommendations: taking into account the exposure assessment and the hazard characterisation, which of the following approaches should be recommended?



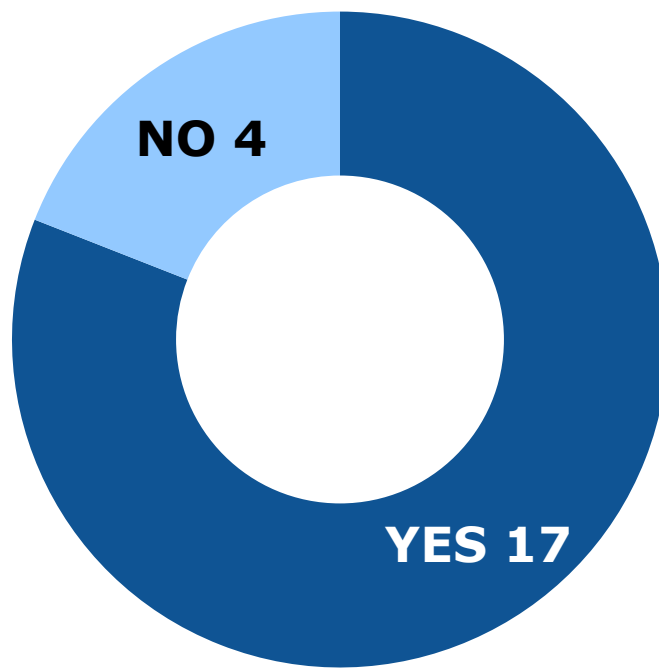
Should the Commission consider proposing a general food safety criterion for STEC?



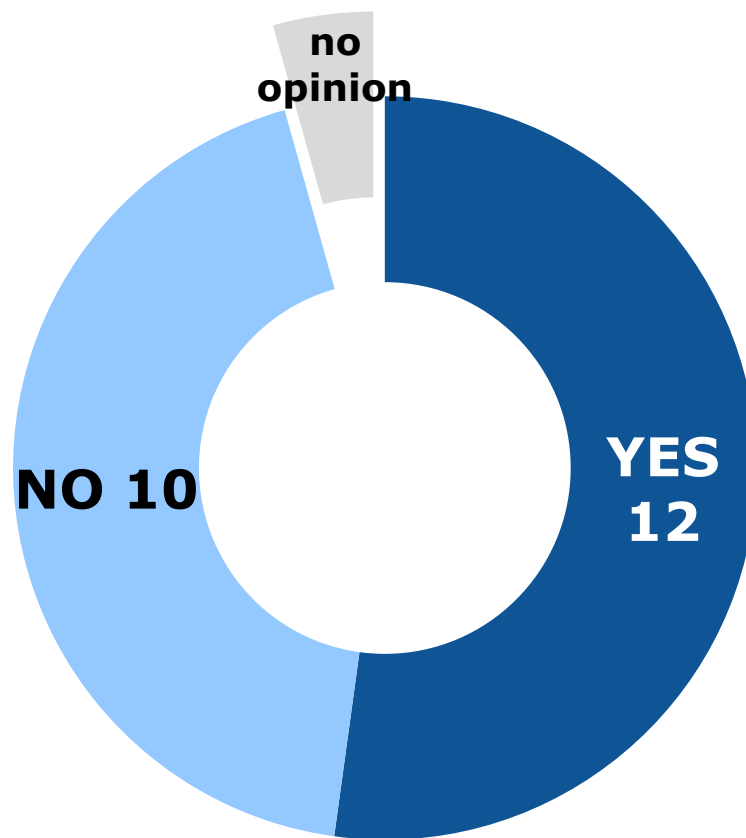
If yes, for which kind of food commodities (e.g. RTE food only, all types of food, please specify)?

RTE	12
All food	7
FP1	2

If yes, should DG SANTE continue meanwhile working on the guidance document?



Should the Commission consider strengthening the current specific food safety criterion for sprouts considering the 2013 EFSA opinion?



1. Outcome STEC questionnaire

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EFSA opinion (2013) - STEC complexity

- ✓ Plasticity of the genome (e.g. *E. coli* O104:H4)
- ✓ Difficulty on designating individual serotypes as pathogens
- ✓ STEC seropathotype approach was deemed not suitable to assess the STEC risk
- ✓ **Molecular approach** proposed

Recommendations to CA on harmonised application of Article 14 of GFL with respect to STEC

- ✓ **when actions should be triggered**
- ✓ **possible actions to be taken**
- ✓ **all types of foods**

Only applicable with

- **complete analytical results**
- **food risk profile well defined**

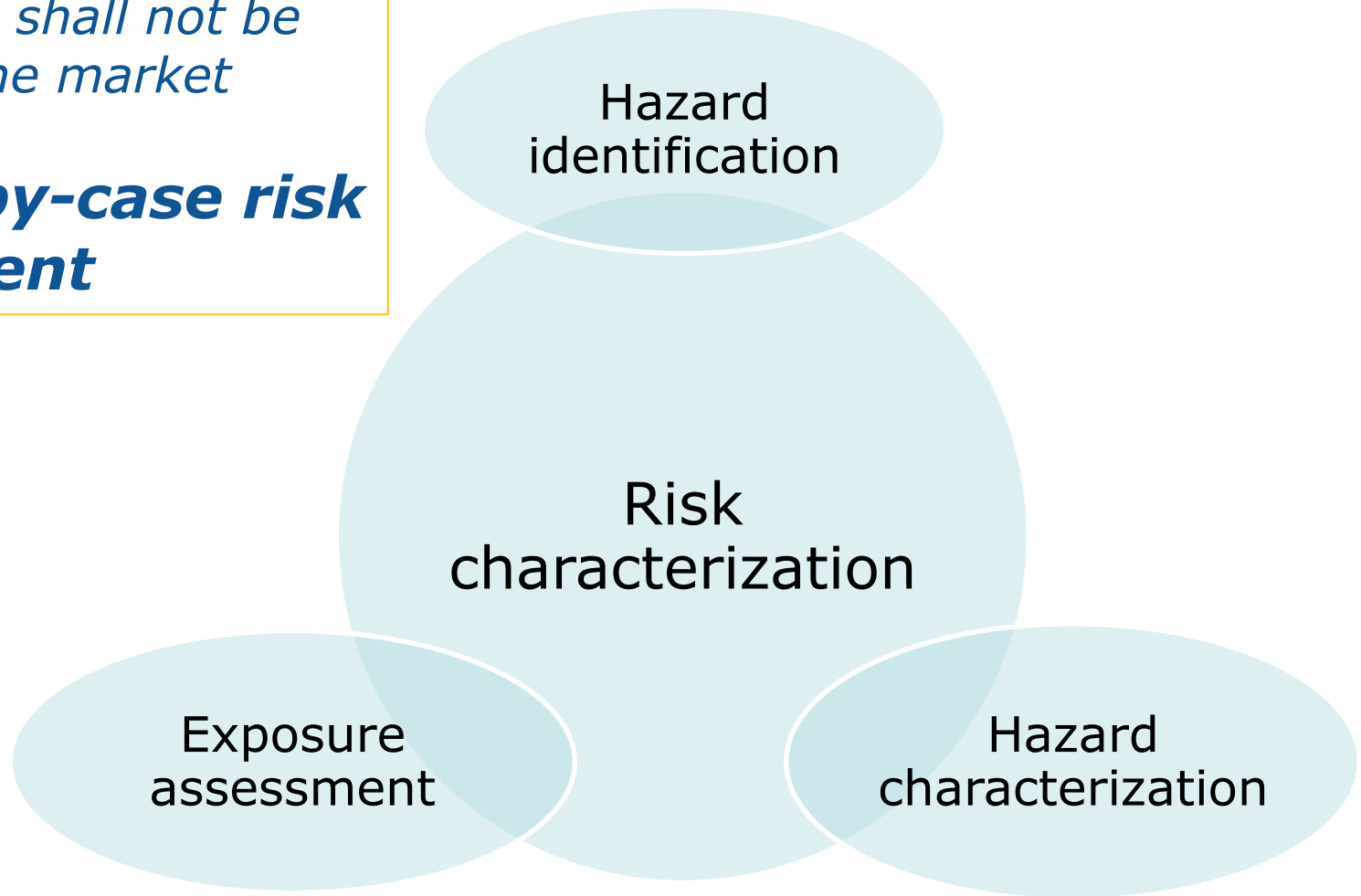
Out of the scope

- ❑ *STEC surveillance or monitoring*
- ❑ *sampling strategy for STEC in food*

Article 14 of GFL

Unsafe food shall not be placed on the market

→ Case-by-case risk assessment



(EFSA opinion 2013) No single or combination of marker(s) has been found to define pathogenic STEC

Table 14: Proposed^(a) molecular approach for the categorisation of VTEC (vtx present)

Group	Genes ^(b)	Serogroups	Potential risk ^(c)	
			Diarrhoea	HUS/HC ^(d)
I	<i>eae</i> -positive or (<i>aaiC</i> and <i>aggR</i>)-positive	O157, O26, O103, O145, O111, O104	High	High
II	<i>eae</i> -positive or (<i>aaiC</i> and <i>aggR</i>)-positive	Any other	High	Unknown
III	<i>eae</i> -negative and (<i>aaiC</i> plus <i>aggR</i>)-negative	Any other	Unknown	Unknown

Low
Uncertainty
High

Food at retail level (STEC detected)

a) RTE food



Food profile 1

b) non-RTE food:
treatment
insufficient



c) non-RTE food:
appropriate
treatment to
eliminate/reduce
STEC risk

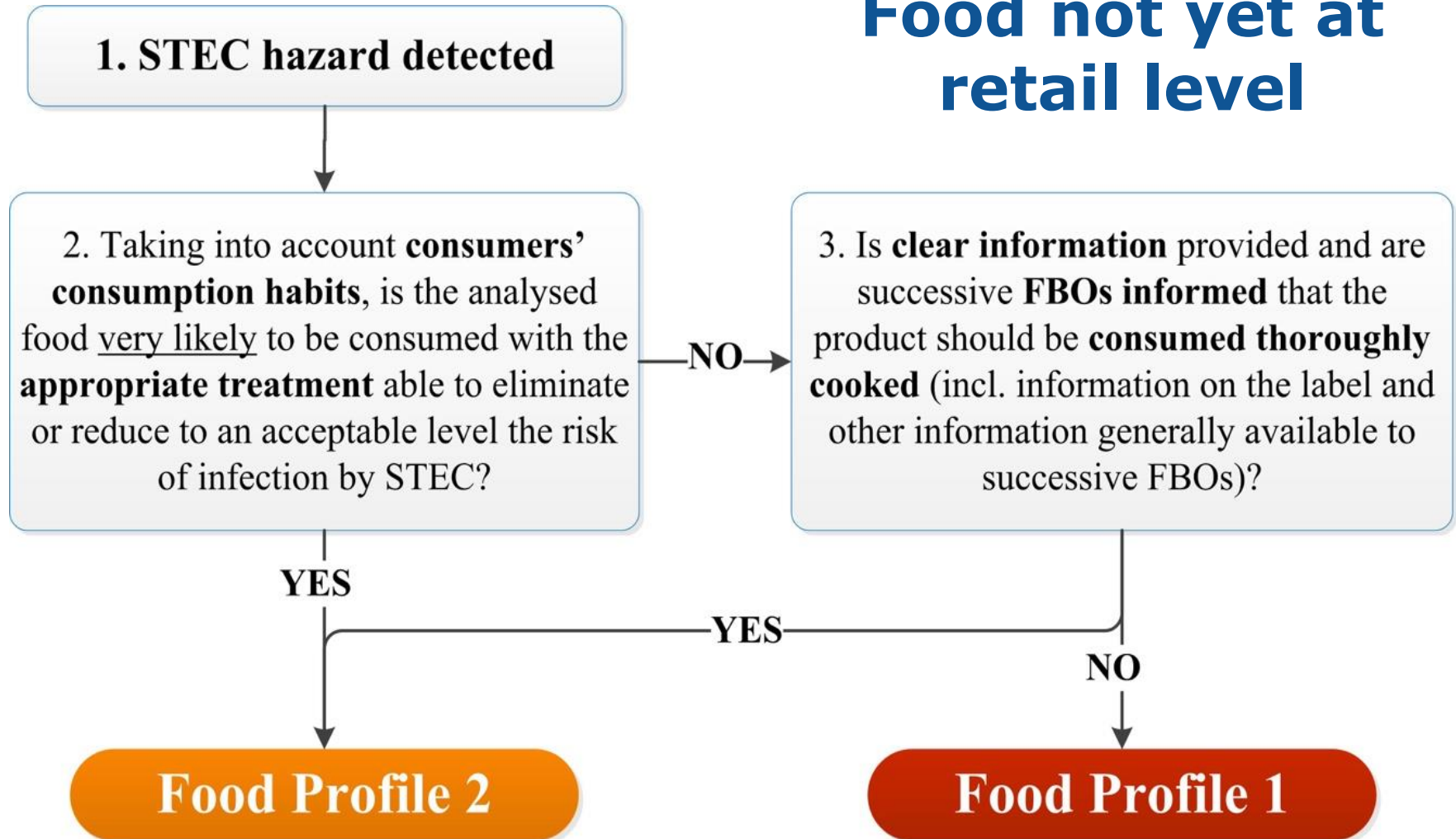


Food profile 2

Exposure assessment



Food not yet at retail level



Recommendations for risk management measures

FP1

Riskiest
category

Detection
STEC
hazard

AT RETAIL
Withdrawal,
recall

FP2

Cross-
contam.

Detection
pathogenic
serogroup

NOT YET AT RETAIL
Further
processing