

ANNEX 2: ESTABLISHING THE SCALES FOR ANALYSING HAZARDS - EXAMPLES¹

SEVERITY SCALE

The severity of a hazard corresponds to the significance of its consequences.

SCALE	CRITERIA
Low	Minor severity: Consumption of the hazardous product may have a negative effect on the product's taste but does not affect the consumer's food and feed safety. Where regulatory thresholds have been set, the results from analyses show zero or low values.
Medium	Medium severity: Consumption of the hazardous product may have a slight effect on the consumer's food and feed safety (sensitive people) if subject to prolonged exposure to the hazard. Where regulatory thresholds have been set, the results from analyses show low values.
High	Critical severity: Consumption of the hazardous product may affect the consumer's food and feed safety (although without the need for hospitalisation) if subject to prolonged exposure to the hazard. Where regulatory thresholds have been set, the results from analyses are close to the maximum levels.

FREQUENCY SCALE

The frequency of a hazard corresponds to the likelihood of occurrence.

SCALE	CRITERIA
Very low	Non-existent. The likelihood of the hazard being present is extremely small and has not occurred to date.
Low	Practically non-existent. The likelihood of the hazard being present is very small and has very rarely occurred to date.
Medium	Possible. An occasional defect or fault has appeared in the past. If the product's control is poor at this point, the hazard will only be present in one part of a single batch.
High	Common. The hazard is regularly present. If the product's control is poor at this point, the hazard will be present in an entire product batch.

¹ Although not directly linked to safety considerations, the operator is invited to pay attention to a possible negative impact on animal health and animal zootechnical performances in the frame of its evaluation.