Glossary of terms

Acceptable daily intake (ADI)	The amount of a food additive expressed on a body weight basis that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without appreciable health risk.
Acidulation	The process of making something more acidic.
ACNFP	Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes
ACMSF	Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food
Acute toxicity	Adverse health effects induced by a single dose of a chemical.
ADME studies	Studies on absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) are usually conducted following single and repeated dosing in experimental animals. Also called toxicokinetic studies.
ALARA	As low as reasonably achievable
Allergen	A normally harmless substance, such as an ingredient in a foodstuff, that causes an (immediate) allergic reaction in a susceptible person
Allergenicity	The ability to trigger an abnormal immune response that leads to an allergic reaction in a person
Animal model	A method involving animals or animal cells that tests how a substance or diet might cause ill-health in humans.
Anthropogenic	Environmental changed caused by humans e.g. pollution
Aquatic ecotoxicology	A field of science which studies the impact of toxic substances on water life (e.g. fish, crustaceans, aquatic plants and algae)
Aseptic Conditions	An environment free of microorganisms.
Azo dye	A petroleum based coloured organic chemical containing the azo grouping -N+N-
Bioassay	Toxicity test in animals usually lasting 2 years in which the chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity of a test chemical are investigated.

Bioavailability	A term to describe how much of a substance gets into the blood through a variety of routes, including the diet. It may refer to vitamins, additives, pesticides or medicines.
Biocide	A preparation of one or more active substances (see definition) designed to use chemicals or other means to kill or halt the actions of harmful organisms such as plant diseases or animal infections.
Biodiversity	A term used to describe the variety of living organisms existing in a specific environment.
Bioinformatics See also Transcriptomics, Proteomics and Metabolomics	An umbrella term for biological studies that use computer programming as part of their methodology. Bioinformatics combines computer science, statistics, mathematics and engineering to study and process biological data.
Biomarker	A characteristic that is objectively measured and can be viewed as an indicator of a normal biological process, a disease process, or a typical response to a drug or therapy; for example, blood pressure.
BMD	The benchmark dose (BMD) is the minimum dose of a substance that produces a clear, low level health risk, usually in the range of a 1-10% change in a specific toxic effect such as cancer induction
Bleaching agent	Substance used to decolour a product
Bound water	Bound water is water which is unavailable for microbial growth eg. sugar binds water to it, so microbes cannot grow on properly manufactured golden syrup as all the water is bound.
Calcium homeostasis	Maintenance of the balance between the loss of calcium from the bone via urine and faeces and resorption of calcium in the bone.
Carcinogenicity	Cancer causing.
Chelate	A complex in which metals are tightly bound together.
Chemical hazard	Health hazard resulting from exposure to a chemical; for example, irritation, burns, carcinogenicity.
Chemical migration	Chemical migration is when chemicals move from the food container into the food causing chemical contamination. Examples are antimony from cheap enamel saucepans and poisonous chemicals from non-food safe plastics.
Chemical residue	Tiny amounts of chemicals found in foodstuffs which have been exposed to pesticides, environmental toxins or related products.
Chronic toxicity	Adverse health effects induced by repeated exposure to a chemical over a period of several months or more.
Clarifying agent	Makes a liquid clear by removing cloudiness or suspended material.

Conservative assumption	An estimate that tends to err on the side of caution or gives a 'worst case scenario'. Often used in risk assessment to ensure that as much risk as possible is taken into account.
Critical effect	The adverse effect seen at the lowest dose when a vulnerable population is exposed to a substance such as an environmental or food toxin. This can relate to humans as well as to other species such as animals, plants or microbes.
Cross reactivity	A situation where an allergic reaction to one substance also leads to an allergic reaction to another substance. This is usually because the allergens (e.g. peanuts and tree nuts) possess similar characteristics which trigger the body's immune defences.
CSS	Chemical Strategy for Sustainability
COC	The UK Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
COM	The UK Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
COT	The UK Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
Cumulative assessment group	Chemicals that are considered as a group because they are likely to act on the body in the same way.
Cumulative effect	A term used to describe how exposure to more than one chemical might affect the body. Used to explain long-term exposure to mixtures of chemicals, such as pesticides or additives.
Cumulative risk assessment	A method of assessing risks to health or the environment posed by multiple substances such as chemicals.
Cytotoxicity	The degree to which agents like chemicals, drugs, or immune cells can damage or kill living cells
Degradation product	Chemical that is formed when a substance breaks down or decomposes.
Degradation rate	A way of describing how quickly a substance (e.g. pollution in a river) will break down and be eliminated from an environment.
Developmental toxicity	Any adverse effect on the development of the unborn, babies, infants or children when exposed to a toxic substance.
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care (England)
Dietary exposure	For the purposes of risk assessment, measurement of the amount of a substance consumed by a person or animal in their diet that is intentionally added or unintentionally present (e.g. a nutrient, additive or pesticide).
Dose response relationship	Relationship between the amount of a chemical administered and the nature of the toxic effect induced.
Dysbiosis	A functional, structural, and metabolic imbalance of microorganisms within the body's microbial communities (microbiomes), most commonly the gut.
EAFUS	The “Everything Added to Food in the United States” (EAFUS) database is an informational database compiled as part of the Priority-based Assessment of Food Additives (PAFA). PAFA contains

	administrative, chemical and toxicological information on over 2000 substances directly added to food, including substances regulated by the FDA as a direct food additive, secondary direct food additive, colour additive, GRAS and prior-sanctioned substance.
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
Ecological recovery	The return of a population or ecosystem to a pre-defined status after a disturbance to its normal activities (e.g. exposure to a toxin or pest, or a change in food supply).
Ecotoxicology	The study of the adverse impacts of substances, particularly chemicals, in relation to the environment and public health.
ED	Endocrine disruptors
Efficacy	How well something works in relation to predefined standards or expectations.
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
Embryogenesis	Period of major organ development in the embryo.
Emerging risk	A risk to human, animal or plant health resulting from a new source or increased susceptibility or exposure to an existing source.
Embryotoxic	Harmful, toxic effects of chemical, physical, or biological agents on a developing embryo.
Endocrine active substance	Chemical that can interact with the body's endocrine (hormone) system.
Endocrine disruptor	A substance that adversely affects the endocrine (hormone) system leading to negative effects for organisms and/or their offspring.
Endogenous	Describes substances which naturally occur within the body; for example, cholesterol.
Epidemiology	The study of how often diseases and other health conditions occur in different groups of people and why. It includes the study of health-related measurements (e.g. pesticide exposure or vitamin deficiency) in a population and how they may influence the risk of ill health
Epithelium	Layers of cells covering the external surface of the body or lining hollow structures (e.g. the gut) within the body.
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)The process of assessing potential harm to the environment caused by a substance, activity or natural occurrence. This may include the introduction of GM plants, the use of pesticides, or the spread of plant pests
Environmental toxicity	The negative impact of a substance or activity (e.g. chemicals, GM crop introduction) on a population of animals, plants or microbes in the environment (e.g. water, soil)

Enzyme	A protein which stimulates or hastens a specific reaction in the body; for example, digestive enzymes help to break down food into nutrients
EU regulatory framework	The name given to policies and laws in Europe which collectively protect the consumer
Exogenous	Describes substances within the human body which have arisen from an external source in the diet or environment; for example, veterinary medicine residues
Exposure	Concentration or amount of a particular substance that is taken in by an individual, population or ecosystem in a specific frequency over a certain amount of time
Exposure assessment	One of the key steps in risk assessment, this relates to a thorough evaluation of who, or what, has been exposed to a hazard and a quantification of the amounts involved
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the UN)
FDA	US Food and Drugs Administration
Field trial	Test conducted on crops to establish how much pesticide remains after normal farming practices and for how long pesticides and their residues persist in the crops. The test results are used to inform rules about permitted amounts of pesticide residues in foodstuffs
Foreign bodies	technical term referring to any extraneous matter, whether of a physical, chemical or biological nature found in food. Examples of foreign bodies are particles of paint, cleaning fluid and human hair
Fortification	The addition of substances to food to improve their nutritional status.
Free water	The free water is the part of the water content of food which is available to microbes.
FSA	Food Standards Agency (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
Genetic diversity	Genetic variation between and within species.
Genetic engineering (GE)	Process that alters the genetic material of an organism by modifying, removing or introducing new DNA to its genome.
Genetically modified organism	An organism which contains genetic material that has been deliberately altered and which does not occur naturally through breeding or selection.
Genome	The entire amount of genetic material found in the cells of living organisms
Genome editing techniques	Processes that change the genetic material of animals, plants and microorganisms with precision in subtle or more extensive ways.
Genotoxicity studies	Assess the ability of a substance to interfere with DNA by induction of gene mutations, chromosome aberrations or other forms of DNA damage.

GRAS	Generally Recognised as Safe GRAS is the regulatory status of food ingredients not evaluated by the FDA prescribed testing procedure. It also includes common food ingredients that were already in use when the 1959 Food Additives Amendment to the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act was enacted.
GMO	A genetically modified organism (GMO) is an organism which contains genetic material that has been deliberately altered and which does not occur naturally through breeding or selection.
H.A.C.C.P.	H.A.C.C.P. is an abbreviation for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points. In this system the places where the product is at greatest risk are known as Critical Control Points. Under European legislation these points need to be identified, monitored and controlled.
Haematological	Pertaining to blood.
Half-life	The time required for 50% of a substance present in an individual, population or ecosystem to break down or be eliminated naturally. It is often used to describe the disappearance of potentially harmful substances such as chemical toxins.
Holistic approach	An approach to risk assessment that takes into account the complexities of real life situations.
Human biomonitoring	A direct measurement of the level of toxic chemical compounds present in the body. Often, these measurements are made using blood and urine.
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
Hyperplasia	An increase in the number of cells, sometimes a precursor to tumours.
HSE	UK Health and Safety Agency
Immunotoxicity	Any adverse effect on the immune system (e.g. allergy or inflammation) that results from exposure to toxic substances.
In silico	Research theoretical method, particularly involving computer models, to predict the likely toxicological, or other, effects of substances.
In vitro	Research method which involves testing cells or tissues extracted from living organisms.
In vivo	Research method which involves testing individual live animals or populations of live animals.
Incidence	The number of new events occurring within a specified time period within a defined geographical area; for example, the number of flu cases per year in Europe.
JECFA	Joint WHO/FAO Committee on Food Additives.

Limit of detection	The lowest concentration of a substance that can be detected using standard tests but which is too small to be measured with certainty.
Limit of quantification	The lowest concentration of a substance that can be measured with certainty using standard tests.
LOAEL	The lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) is the lowest level of a substance that has been observed to cause harm in an exposed population.
LOD	A limit of detection (LOD) is the lowest concentration of a substance that can be detected using standard tests but which is too small to be measured with certainty.
LOQ	The limit of quantification (LOQ) is lowest concentration of a substance that can be measured with certainty using standard test.
Low dose effect	Effect which occurs at low doses of a substance, i.e. below those doses traditionally used for toxicological studies.
Lymphocytes	Type of white blood cell involved in immune reactions (e.g. fighting infections and allergic reactions).
Margin of exposure	A tool used in risk assessment to explore safety concerns arising from the presence of a potentially toxic substance in food or animal feed.
Margin of safety	The gap between the actual intake of a substance by a given population and the estimated daily dose over a lifetime that experts consider to be safe.
Maximum permitted level	The maximum amount of a contaminant, naturally occurring toxin or nutrient allowed in foods or animal feeds.
Maximum residue level for pesticides	The maximum amount of a pesticide residue allowed in foods or animal feeds, expressed as milligrams per kilogram.
Meta-analysis	A statistical method which enables the results of similar studies to be pooled in order to determine any significant trends.
Metabolism	The total sum of physical and chemical processes that occur within living organisms.
Metabolite	Substance formed as a consequence of metabolism in an organism.
Metabolomics	The study of an organism's metabolic state through the systematic analysis of its metabolites within cells or biological fluids (e.g. blood, urine).
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
MOE	The margin of exposure (MOE) is a tool used in risk assessment to explore safety concerns arising from the presence of a potentially toxic substance in food or animal feed.
Morphology	The study of the shape or structure of things.
MRL	The maximum amount of a pesticide residue allowed in foods or animal feeds, expressed as milligrams per kilogram.

Moulds	Moulds are a type of fungi which have multi- nuclei cells and grow by branching out from an area of high mould density. Moulds are involved in the spoilage of food and some produce poisons known as mycotoxins which cause food poisoning.
Mutagenicity	The capacity to cause permanent, typically negative, changes to an organism and any offspring by altering the structure of its DNA.
Mutation	A permanent, typically negative, change in the genetic material in a cell which, in most cases, can be passed onto any offspring.
Mycotoxin	Toxin produced by certain species of mould which are dangerous to humans and animals.
Nanomaterial	Natural or manufactured material which contains miniscule single units typically measuring between 1 and 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter (a human hair is 80,000-100,000 nanometers wide).
Nanoscience	The study of nanomaterials.
NIAS	Not intentionally added substance
Neurotoxicity	Any adverse effect on the nervous system (e.g. paralysis or loss of function) that results from exposure to potentially toxic substances.
New genomic techniques (NGTs)	Molecular breeding techniques that can alter the genetic material of an organism and that have been developed since the adoption of the EU's GMO legislation in 2001.
NOAEL	No observed effect level: the dose at which a substance does not cause any adverse effects.
Novel food	Foodstuff or food ingredient that was not used for human consumption to a significant degree within the European Union before 15 May 1997.
Occurrence	The fact or frequency of something (e.g. a disease or deficiency in a population) happening.
Omics	High-powered technologies used for holistic analysis of the molecules that make up the cells of living organisms; for example, Genomics is the study of the entire genome, while Proteomics analyses the complete complement of proteins within a biological sample.
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.
Organic compound	Chemical containing carbon; often derived from plants, animals or bacteria.
Organism	A living thing such as humans, animals, plants and microbes (e.g. bacteria, viruses)
Organogenesis	Time period when the major organs are developing in the foetus.
Osmotic diarrhoea	Watery diarrhoea caused by the presence of large amounts of poorly digestible substances in the large intestine that draws water from inside the body into the intestinal lumen by osmosis.

Pathogen	Organism (e.g. bacterium, virus and parasite) that can cause disease
PAFA (US)	Priority-based Assessment of Food Additives (PAFA). PAFA contains administrative, chemical and toxicological information on over 2000 substances directly added to food, including substances regulated by the FDA as a direct food additive, secondary direct food additive, colour additive, GRAS and prior-sanctioned substance.
Pathological changes	Undesirable changes to tissues and fluids in the body caused by disease or toxic chemicals.
Pelvic nephrocalcinosis	Deposition of calcium in the kidneys.
Percentile	A way of visualising the low, medium and high occurrences of a measurement (e.g. vitamin C intake) by splitting the whole distribution into one hundred equal parts.
Permissible level	Maximum level of a substance or other agent to which people can safely be exposed over a specified period of time.
Pesticide	Substance used to kill or control pests, including disease-carrying organisms and undesirable insects, animals and plants.
Phylogeny	The evolutionary history and relationships among organisms or genes, typically represented in a tree-like structure. In whole genome sequencing, phylogenies help trace the origin, spread, and genetic evolution of pathogens.
Plant Protection Product (PPP)	Products used to protect, preserve or influence the growth of desirable plants or to destroy or control the growth of unwanted plants or parts of plants.
PMEM	Post market environmental monitoring. Monitoring of the effects of a new product (e.g. a GM plant) following its release onto the market. This may reveal adverse effects which were not predicted in the risk assessment conducted prior to market release.
Population threshold	A level set within a population to indicate when a significant change in risk occurs; for example, the point at which a certain number of people has been exposed to a chemical
Potency	A measure of the capacity of a chemical substance to exert an effect, described in terms of the relationship between the dose used and the magnitude of the resulting effect
Prevalence	The proportion of a population found to have a condition
Probability	The likelihood that a particular event will occur or that a measured value will fall within a particular rang
Processing aid	A processing aid is defined by Regulation 1333/2008 Article 3(b) as any substance which is not consumed as a food by itself; is intentionally used in the processing of raw materials, foods or their ingredients to fulfil a certain technological purpose and which may result in the unintentional but technically unavoidable

	presence of residues in the final product, providing they have no impact on health or technological effect on the final product.
Proteomics	One of the family of so-called 'omics methods: an approach to the study of proteins whereby the entire complement of proteins in a given sample (of tissue, cells or a biological fluid such as blood) is analysed simultaneously.
QPS	The qualified presumption of safety (QPS) is a safety assessment procedure for microbes used in the food chain. QPS uses existing knowledge about the safety of specific microbes to differentiate those which are not of concern (and can be given QPS status) from those which may represent a risk and should be subject to a full safety assessment.
QSAR	The quantitative/qualitative structure activity relationships (QSAR) are a set of methods by which the effects of different compounds are related to their molecular structures. It allows the likely adverse or beneficial effects of a particular chemical to be predicted by comparing it with others which have similar structures.
Quantum satis	No maximum level is specified.
REACH	REACH compliance requires businesses manufacturing, importing, or using chemicals in the EU/UK to register substances, manage risks, and communicate safety data via the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) or UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
Replacement, reduction and refinement (3Rs)	An internationally accepted approach to reduce the use of animals in research by, wherever possible, requiring studies to use alternative models and/or making refinements to the methods to minimise any distress when animals are used.
Reproductive and developmental toxicity studies	A reproductive study that can examine one-generational or multi-generational studies to provide information on male and female fertility, maintenance of pregnancy, birth and lactation and indicate any adverse effects on survival, growth and development of the offspring.
Response addition	An approach to the risk assessment of mixtures of substances in which responses to each of the individual components are determined and added together in order to predict the response to the mixture as a whole. This approach is only valid if the individual components do not interact with each other, i.e. their effects are completely independent
Risk assessment	Also termed safety assessment provides the general principles for assessing the safety of substances in food.
Risk characterisation	The final stage of risk assessment, in which the likelihood that a particular substance will cause harm is calculated in the light of the nature of the hazard and the extent to which people, animals, plants and/or the environment are exposed to it.
Risk management	The management of risks which have been identified by risk assessment. It includes the planning, implementation and

	evaluation of any resulting actions taken to protect consumers, animals and the environment.
Risk profile	A description of a food safety issue that includes the associated hazard(s), the likelihood of health risks for a given population, and the possible risk mitigation options that are relevant for risk management decisions.
Risk-benefit analysis	A method for weighing up the likely risks (in terms of the incidence and severity) associated with exposure to a substance versus the likely benefits
RNA	A type of nucleic acid found in the body, similar to DNA but single stranded. The best known function of RNA (ribonucleic acid) is transmitting instructions from DNA to the cellular machinery responsible for making proteins
Scientific opinion	Opinions include risk assessments on general scientific issues, evaluations of an application for the authorisation of a product, substance or claim, or an evaluation of a risk assessment
Scientific peer-review	Evaluation of scientific, academic, or professional work by others working in the same field
Screening method	A first step method to establish the presence of a substance in a population for the purposes of estimating risk. Food intake is combined with likely chemical concentration to create an estimate of chemical exposure
Sensitisation	Part of the allergic process in which an individual becomes hypersensitive t a substance and suffers an allergic reaction when next exposed to it.
Species	A subdivision of the genus, a species is a group of closely related and similar-looking organisms; for example, in the case of Homo sapiens (humans), the second part of the name (sapiens) represents the species
Specific protection goals for ERA for pesticides	The specific goals of an environmental risk assessment in terms of what to protect, where to protect it, over what time period and with what degree of certainty.
SSD Species sensitivity distribution	A model of the variation in sensitivity of a species to a particular source of harm (e.g. drought, pest invasion or chemical exposure)
Statistical significance	A measure of the likelihood that a result occurred based on statistical tests.
Steroisomer	One of two or more compounds that differ only in their spatial arrangements of atoms.
STOT	Specific target organ toxicants
Structural alert	Parts of organic molecules which are believed to be responsible for adverse effects (e.g. genotoxicity) and can be used to predict the toxicity of similar compounds
Sub-population	An identifiable subdivision of a population; for example, infants

Sublethal effect	A biological, physiological, demographic or behavioural effect on an individual or population that survives exposure to a substance at a lethal (i.e., deadly) or sublethal concentration. Sublethal effects may affect, among others, life span, development, population growth, fertility and behaviour, such as feeding or foraging
Subchronic toxicity studies	A subchronic study is usually an animal study that lasts 90 days with a substance continually exposed to the test study over this time to yield information on food consumption and body weight, haematology, blood and urine biochemistry and any pathological effects in the organs.
Synergistic effect	An interaction that multiplies outcomes. The outcome in question may be beneficial or adverse
Synthetic biology (SynBio)	Field of science that combines engineering and biology with the aim of developing new biological systems and attributing new features to living cells
Systemic pesticide	A pesticide which is distributed throughout the target organism (e.g. insect, rodent or weed) without losing efficacy
Target population	Section of the healthy population defined by a specified age range and gender. Because of their particular physiological status, pregnant and lactating women are specific target populations
TDI	The tolerable daily intake (TDI) is an estimate of the amount of a substance in food or drinking water which is not added deliberately (e.g contaminants) and which can be consumed over a lifetime without presenting an appreciable risk to health.
Teratogen	Adverse effects on foetal development that can be caused by exposure to certain substance.
The carry-over principle	Where an additive used in part of the product does not have to be expressly permitted in the final product because it has no technological role in it. E.g. bacon may have sodium nitrite used in processing, but when added as a pizza topping the pizza does not have to expressly permitted in that product.
Threshold	A dose or exposure below which adverse effects are not detected
Threshold of toxicological concern	A screening tool that provides conservative exposure limits in the absence of sufficient chemical-specific toxicological data. It is a science-based approach for prioritising chemicals with low-level exposures that require more data over those that can be presumed to present no appreciable human health risk
Tiered approach	A way of organising toxicology assessments to maximise efficiency and minimise the use of animals. It involves a hierarchy (tiers) of tests, starting with those that use existing information or simple biological methods before moving onto tests using cells and eventually live animals only as necessary
Total diet study	A study designed to estimate the likely consumption of harmful or beneficial substances in the diet. When undertaking such a study,

	commonly-consumed foods are purchased from shops in a particular country before being analysed
Toxicity	The potential of a substance to cause harm to a living organism
Toxicodynamics	The process of interaction of chemical substances with the body and the subsequent reactions leading to adverse effects
Toxicokinetic studies	The study of how a biological system handles a substance, focusing on the rates of absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion.
Toxicological profile	A summary of the toxic effects of a particular substance, including the levels of exposure at which these effects occur
Toxicological testing	Laboratory tests to assess the possible adverse effects of a proposed food additive. These can be tests conducted in experimental animals.
Toxin	: A toxin is a poison (normally protein in nature) produced by a living entity. Most cases of microbial food poisoning are due to toxins. The toxin may be present and dangerous even though all the microbes which produced it are dead
Transcriptomics	One of the family of so-called 'omics methods: an approach to the study of gene expression whereby thousands of RNA molecules in a given sample (of tissue or cells) are analysed simultaneously.
TTC	The threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) is a screening tool that provides conservative exposure limits in the absence of sufficient chemical-specific toxicological data. It is a science-based approach for prioritising chemicals with low-level exposures that require more data over those that can be presumed to present no appreciable human health risk
TWI	The tolerable weekly intake (TWI) is the maximum intake of substances in food, such as nutrients or contaminants, that can be consumed weekly over a lifetime without risking adverse health effects
T½	The time required for 50% of a substance present in an individual, population or ecosystem to break down or be eliminated naturally. The half-life, or t½, is often used to describe the disappearance of potentially harmful substances such as chemical toxins
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency
Umami	In addition to the four main taste components (sweet, sour, salty and bitter), there is the additional taste characteristic called umami or savoury. One of the food components responsible for the umami flavour in foods is glutamate.
Uncertainty	Scientific concept used in risk assessment to describe all types of limitations in available knowledge at the time an assessment is conducted, with the agreed resources, that affect the probability of possible outcomes to the assessment

UPF	Ultra-processed foods
Upper bound estimate	A way of estimating exposure to a particular compound from analytical data by assigning the lowest value which can be detected (or quantitated) to all samples with levels below this value. For a toxic chemical this gives the most pessimistic estimate of exposure (i.e. the real level of exposure will always be below the upper bound estimate)
Variability	Natural variations observed between members of a population, or observed over time or in different geographical locations; for example, individual variations in susceptibility to a particular toxic chemical.
Vulnerable group	Group of people needing specific consideration when assessing the nutritional needs or health effects of substances; for example, pregnant women, infants and people exposed to higher doses of substances through their environment
Weight of evidence	A process in which all of the evidence relating to a decision is evaluated based on its strength and quality
WHO	World Health Organisation
Xenobiotics	Chemical substances foreign to a biological system, including drugs, environmental pollutants, pesticides, food additives, and industrial chemicals. These compounds are not naturally produced or expected to be present within an organism.