On 9 June 2011, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a report on the public health risk of STEC in fresh vegetables [1]. It aims to provide a fast-tracked risk assessment of the exposure of the consumer to Shiga-toxin producing Escherichia coli (STEC) through eating raw vegetables.

On exposure assessment, the report states that there is not much information available on the prevalence and quantity of STEC in vegetables, and that it is impossible to estimate the relative exposure to humans from pre-harvest or post-harvest contamination of vegetables by STEC at this time.

The report also provides advice on mitigation options pre-harvest, post-harvest and on good hygiene practices for caterers and in the home.

References