

The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment
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Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler



ORDER OF RISK ASSESSMENT FOR PSYCHROBACTER SP. USED AS A PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT

The Norwegian Food and Health Authority hereby ask for an assessment of the bacteria *Psychrobacter* sp. used as a plant protection product (Nemaslug).

Background

Psychrobacter sp., most likely *P.faecalis*, is the symbiotic bacteria to the beneficial nematode *Phasmarhabditis californica*, and is the effective organism in the product **Nemaslug 2.0**. This product was applied for and rejected 08.04.2022.

The evaluation process of Nemaslug 2.0 uncovered that the approved product **Nemaslug** also contain the symbiotic bacteria *Psychrobacter* sp., and not *Moraxella osloensis* as the applicant stated earlier. *Moraxella osloensis* was evaluated in a report by VKM in 2008¹. In order to keep the approval for Nemaslug to the Norwegian market, the *Psychrobacter* sp. has to be risk assessed. The outcome of the assessment will influence whether the product Nemaslug will keep its approval or not.

Description of the assessment

With the view on the bacteria *Psychrobacter* sp., The Norwegian Food Safety Authority would like an assessment of the following:

- The human health risk by using the plant protection product Nemaslug.
- The human health risk by consumption of food products treated with Nemaslug.
- The occurrence of the bacteria in Norway, and whether it is naturally occurring.
- The organisms' potential to establish and spread in the environment under Norwegian climatic conditions, specified by the use of Nemaslug in greenhouses and outdoors. The risk of effects on indigenous species under Norwegian climatic conditions should also be assessed.
- Uncertainty about taxonomy which can make the risk assessment difficult.

Kind regards,

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¹ [74b40fc63f.pdf \(vkm.no\)](#)