

CONSULTATION

Topic: European Commission discussion paper on the setting of maximum and minimum amounts for vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs

Start date of consultation: Friday, 11th August 2006

Closing date of consultation: Friday, 8th September 2006

Consultation details

The EU Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection has launched a discussion paper to identify the issues around the setting of maximum and minimum amounts of vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

The adoption of *Directive 2002/46/EC on food supplements* provides for the setting of maximum and minimum amounts of vitamins and minerals in these products via the Standing Committee procedure. Similar provisions are contained in the proposal for a *Regulation on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods* which is expected to be adopted by the EU Commission by the end of 2006. The EU discussion paper identifies the issues to be considered in the setting of maximum and minimum amounts of vitamins and minerals in such foods.

The FSAI welcomes your comments with regard to the EU discussion document and in particular in relation to the questions highlighted in this paper.

Responses should be submitted by 5pm on Friday, 8th September 2006 to: consultation@fsai.ie

Or via post to:

Consultations, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Abbey Court, Lwr Abbey Street, Dublin 1.
Fax +353 1 817 1301

If you have any difficulty accessing the documents please telephone us on 01 -817 1300

Specific Questions raised in the Discussion paper:

SETTING OF MAXIMUM AMOUNTS

1. Establishment of maximum amounts for food supplements and other foods

- 1.1 Where there is not yet a scientifically established numerical tolerable upper intake levels for several nutrients, what should the upper safe levels be for those nutrients that should be taken into account in setting their maximum levels?
- 1.2 For some vitamins and minerals the risk of adverse effects, even at high levels of intakes, appears to be extremely low or non-existent according to available data. Is there any reason to set maximum levels for these vitamins and minerals?
- 1.3 Where maximum levels are set, does this inevitably require that maximum amounts are set for vitamins and minerals separately for food supplements and fortified foods in order to safeguard both a high level of public health protection and the legitimate expectations of the various food business operators? Are there alternatives?

2. Intake of vitamins and minerals from dietary sources

The Commission has requested that any available information on intakes of vitamins and minerals or indications of the best sources providing such data at EU level be forwarded to them.

- 2.1 If such existing data refer only to the intake in some Member States, can they be used for the setting of legitimate and effective maximum levels of vitamins and minerals at European level? On the basis of what adjustments, if any?
- 2.2 Should the intake from different population groups be taken into account in the setting of maximum levels of vitamins and minerals?

3. Reference intakes of vitamins and minerals

- 3.1 Taking into account all the considerations mentioned in paragraphs 34 to 42 of the discussion paper, how far should PRIs (Population reference Intakes)/RDAs be taken into account when setting maximum levels for vitamins and minerals?

4. Minimum Amounts

- 4.1 Should the minimum amount of a vitamin or a mineral in a food to which these nutrients are added be the same as the significant amount required to be present for a claim and/or declaration of the nutrient in nutrition labelling?
 - 4.2 Should different minimum amounts be set for certain nutrients in specific foods or categories of foods? If yes, on what basis?
 - 4.3 Should minimum amounts for vitamins and minerals in food supplements also be linked to the significant amounts that should be present for labelling purposes or should they be set in a different way?
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