

Consultation Information Note

Topic: Establishment of the Community list of food additives in annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008/EC

Start date of consultation: Wednesday 14th April 2010

Closing date of consultation: Wednesday 12th May 2010

Consultation details:

Article 30.1 of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on food additives which was adopted on the 16th of December 2008, requires that food additives currently permitted for use in foods through Directives 94/35/EC on sweeteners, 94/36/EC on colours and 95/2/EC on additives other than colours and sweeteners and their conditions of use shall be entered into a Community list. This community list shall be entered into annex II of Regulation 1333/2008/EC. Food additives and uses which are no longer needed will not be entered into the new European Community (EC) list. Article 4 of the Regulation further stipulates that the additives in the Community list shall be listed on the basis of the categories of food to which they may be added i.e. the Food Categorisation System (FCS). The establishment and adoption of the Community list must be completed by the 20th of January 2011.

The European Commission has consulted with various stakeholders and with Member States over the last number of years resulting in the establishment of various categories into which the current authorised food additives with their conditions of use have been introduced. The categorisation system is based on the Codex Alimentarius General Standards on Food Additives (GSFA), however certain amendments were needed to take into account the specific nature of certain of the food additive authorisations currently in force within the EU. The purpose of the exercise is to minimise the number of categories where possible and to keep the system simple. The FCS currently contains seventeen categories which are further subdivided into one hundred and fifty three subcategories. Currently authorised additives, which are listed in the annexes to Directive 94/35/EC, 94/36/EC and 95/2/EC, along with their conditions of use, have been placed into these categories and sub-categories. The number of additives which may be permitted in the various food categories varies widely, with for example zero additives permitted in category 11.3: honey, whilst there are more than 250 additives listed under category 16.1: edible ices.

The FCS will be divided up into three parts. The first part will introduce the general provisions concerning the authorisation of food additives and will also include a list of foodstuffs in which no additives may be permitted. Part II will consist of the list of all permitted food additives and these will be listed in accordance with their main functional class, whilst part III will detail the foodstuffs and the additives which will be permitted in the seventeen food categories and one hundred and fifty three subcategories.

The following 17 food categories have been created to date:

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| 1. Dairy | 11. Sugars and Table Top Sweeteners |
| 2. Fats and Oils | 12. Salt, Spices, Seasonings, Sauces etc. |
| 4. Fruit and Vegetables | 13. PARNUTS |
| 5. Confectionery | 14. Beverages |
| 6. Cereals and Cereal Products | 15. Snacks |
| 7. Bakery Wares | 16. Desserts |
| 8. Meat and Meat Products | 17. Food Supplements |
| 9. Fish and Fish Products | 18. Nutrients |
| 10. Eggs and Egg products | |

The FSAI invites you to submit your comments on any aspect of the proposed Community list for food additives.

Responses should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 12th May 2010 to: consultation@fsai.ie **Or fax to:** +353 (0)1 817 1301

Or via post to:

Consultations, Food Safety Authority, Abbey Court, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1