

SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE OPINION

Fruit juice and fruit juice blends with added chia seed

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) received an application in October of 2016 from Yumi SAS in France for an opinion on the substantial equivalence of their fruit juice and fruit juice blends with added whole, mashed or ground chia seed. The applicant has compared their products to similar products already authorised to Wow Food and Drinks Ltd. in September 2015. Only EU-Authorised chia seed (whole, ground or mashed) will be used by the applicant and therefore this opinion deals mainly with the extension of use represented by the addition of chia seed to fruit juice and fruit juice blends.

Composition

The chia seed to be used by the applicant has already been authorised and therefore its composition has already been satisfactorily addressed. Fruit juice and fruit juice blends are not within the scope of the novel food Regulation and the addition of chia seed should not alter the composition.

Nutritional Value and Metabolism

The addition of authorised chia seed to fruit juice and fruit juice blends is not expected to have any unanticipated effects on the nutritional value or metabolism of the chia seed or beverages.

Intended Uses

The applicant wishes to extend the use of an already authorised chia seed so that it can be added to fruit juice and fruit juice blends in accordance with the conditions set out in the FSAI authorisation letter of 2015 to Wow Food and Drinks Ltd.

Level of Undesirable Substances

The fruit juice or fruit juice blends with added chia seed are subject to high pressure pasteurisation before packaging in transparent containers. Microbiological analysis for Coliforms, *E. coli*, Salmonella, and Listeria is carried out on the starting chia seed and beverages, and also on the final pasteurised product to ensure quality control throughout the production process.

Conclusions:

The FSAI is satisfied from the information provided by Yumi SAS that the proposed fruit juice and fruit juice blends with added chia seed are substantially equivalent to those authorised to Wow Food and Drinks Ltd. Only chia seed that is already authorised for marketing in the EU will be used and so the composition, nutritional value and metabolism of the chia seed are not specifically addressed in this opinion. The applicant will monitor the potential for allergic reactions to chia seed and, where possible, provide the contact details of local food allergy organisations. The chia seed added to fruit juices and fruit juice blends shall be designated as “Chia (*Salvia hispanica*) seeds” on the labelling of products containing them.