

SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE OPINION

Chia Seed (*Salvia hispanica*)

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) received an application in July of 2014 from Negocios Europa Ltd. (AgroBolivia) in the UK for an opinion on the substantial equivalence of its Bolivian grown Chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) to Chia seed already on the EU market as a novel food. The comparator Chia seed on the EU market was authorised to the Chia Company in Australia by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU.

The novel Chia seed, grown in Bolivia will generally conform to the compositional parameters set out in Annex I of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU. The intended uses of the novel Chia seed will be the same as for the authorised comparator as set out in Annex II of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU.

Composition

The applicant demonstrates through three batch test results that only minor differences exist in the levels of macro and micro nutrients between the novel Chia seed and the comparator seed authorised by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU. The compositional data included relates to dry matter, protein, fat (saturated and unsaturated), carbohydrate, fibre and ash, as well as a number of vitamins and minerals.

Nutritional Value and Metabolism

The novel Chia seed and the authorised comparator contain similar levels of the main macro and micro nutrients and therefore the nutritional value and metabolism of both products would not be expected to differ.

Intended Uses

The novel Chia seed is to be used in the EU at similar levels and in the same food categories set out in Annex II of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU

which includes baked products, breakfast cereals, fruit/nut/seed mixes and pre-packaged seed.

Level of Undesirable Substances

The applicant maintains that AgroBolivia's Chia seed are naturally grown and therefore detailed chemical residue analysis has not been carried out.

Data relating to microbial contaminants (mycotoxins, yeasts/moulds, *Staphylococci*, *Bacilli*, *Salmonella*, *E. Coli* and *Listeria*) as well as heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury) are provided and are similar to those for the comparator seed. The applicant will ensure that monitoring for these contaminants will continue as part of the quality control system.

Conclusions

The FSAI is satisfied from the information provided by the applicant that Chia seed marketed by AgroBolivia is substantially equivalent to Chia seed already on the EU market and authorised to the Chia Company in Australia by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU. The designation of this novel ingredient in foodstuffs will be "Chia (*Salvia hispanica*) seeds" in accordance with *Article 2* of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/50/EU. When sold in pre-packaged form, the consumer will be informed through the label that the daily intake of Chia seed should not exceed 15g.