

SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE OPINION

Chia Seed (*Salvia hispanica*)

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) received a joint application in July of 2014 from Nature's Path Organic UK and Nature's Path Food Inc. for an opinion on the substantial equivalence of Chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) originating in Mexico and South America 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 will be grown in Mexico and South America (Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay) and 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 test results of four batches that only minor differences exist in the levels of macro and micro nutrients between their organic 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

Herbicides or other chemicals are not allowed in the growing, harvesting or processing of Nature's Path certified organic Chia seed and therefore analysis for such chemicals 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 Nature's Path Organic UK and Nature's Path Food Inc. 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.