

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMISSION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

on the action to be taken following the requests for information on the
additives, specifications and methods of analysis contained in
letters sent by the secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

(OL 1973/13 and CL 1974/7)

Commission Report to the Council on the action to be taken following the requests for information on additives, specifications and methods of analysis contained in letters sent by the secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. (CL 1973/13 and CL 1974/7).

The two letters referred to relate to requests for information on the acceptability of specifications for thickening agents, anticaking agents, antimicrobials, antioxidants, emulsifiers, methods of analysis, enzymes, starches, preservatives etc... The FAO/WHO secretariat has requested information before the meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food additives in June 1974, although has unofficially informed the Commission Services that replies after this date are acceptable.

The Commission proposes the following procedure:-

1. For additives controlled by Community legislation

The Commission will tell the FAO/WHO secretariat of the Community Directives that already exist on Colours, Preservatives, Antioxidants and Emulsifiers (etc). and will give information on the specification contained therein for those substances under discussion by the FAO/WHO. To this end the Commission proposes to send to Codex the letter, the draft of which is to be found annexed to this document.

2. Additives not yet controlled by Community legislation

The Commission proposes that Member States write individually to the effect that it is impossible to give comprehensive study to all the additives, their specifications and the methods of analysis, included in the latter and accompanying documents within the timescale proposed, and that the Member States of the EEC will collectively consider over a longer period the acceptability of the limits laid down in the FAO/WHO specification in relation to the programme of work undertaken by the Community.

Subject: Criteria of purity for food additives to be considered at the 18th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and at the 10th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

In reply to your circular letters CL 1973/12 and CL 1974/7, I can inform you that the European Economic Community has adopted Directives on colours, preservatives, antioxidants and emulsifiers (etc.), which may be used in food within the Community.

So called "general" purity criteria have been established for all additives. "Specific" purity criteria have been drawn up for individual substances, some of which are the subject of your request for observations.

The two types of specification are referred to in Annex I and reproduced in Annex II.

The Community would be pleased to see the data considered during your future work programme.

Yours faithfully,

Summary of the European Economic Community's provisions
as they affect the Criteria of purity for food additives
to be considered at the 18th Session of the Joint FAO/
WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and at the
10th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Summary of the European Economic Community's provisions as they affect the Criteria of purity for food additives to be considered at the 18th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and at the 10th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives

FAO/WHO Ref.	FAO/WHO Classification	Additive	EEC No.	Reference
WHO Series 2 FAO Series 50	Enzymes	As a class	-	Not considered
	Other substances	Caramel	E150	Council Directive 23.10.62 (OJ No 115, 11.11.62) Council Directive 25.10.65 (OJ No 178, 26.10.65)
(Also WS/E5497)		Cellulose (microcryst)	E460) Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ L189, 12.7.74) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
(Also WS/E5468)		Sodium stearyl lactylate	E481	
(Also WS/E5468)		Calcium stearyl lactylate	E482	
(Also WS/E5198)		Hexamethylenetetramine	E239	
(Also WS/E5497)	Thickening agents, Stabilisers	Starches (chemical treated)	-	-
WS/E5497		Agar	E406) Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ No L189, 12.7.74) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration.
		Alginic acid	E400	
		Ammonium alginate	E403	
		Arabic gum	E414	
		Calcium alginate	E404	
		Carob bean gum	E410	
		Carrageenan	E407	
		Furcellaran	E408	
		Guar gum	E412	
		Hydroxypropyl cellulose	E463	
		Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose	E464	
	Karaya gum	-	-	

FAO/WHO Ref.	FAO/WHO Classification	Additive	EEC No.	Reference			
		Methylcellulose	E 461) Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ No L189, 12.7.74) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration			
		Methylethylcellulose	E 465				
		Pectin	E 440				
		Potassium alginate	E 402				
		Propylene glycol alginate	E 405				
		Sodium alginate	E 401				
		Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	E 466				
		Tragacanth	E 413				
		WS/E5101	Anticaking Agents		As a class	-	Not considered
					Calcium carbonate	E170	Council Directive 23.10.62 (OJ No 115, 11.11.62)
Calcium phosphate, tribasic	E341			Council Directive 13.7.70 (OJ No L 157, 18.7.70) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration			
Salts of myristic, palmitic and stearic acid, with bases accepted for food use	Ex- E470			Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ No L189, 12.7.74) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration			
Tetrasodium disphosphate	E450						
Monosodium L-Glutamate	E214						
WS/E5198	Antimicrobials, Preservatives	Benzoic acid	E210) Council Directive 5.11.63 (OJ No 12, 27.1.64) as amended Council Directive 26.1.65 (OJ No 22, 9.2.65)			
		Calcium acetate	E263				
		Calcium propionate	E282				
		Calcium sorbate	E203				
		Ethyl-p-hydroxybenzoate	E214				
		Cupric sulfate	-				
		Diethyl pyrocarbonate	-				
		Formic acid	E236				
		Methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate	E218				
					General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration		

FAO/WHO Ref.	FAO/WHO Classification	Additive	EEC No.	Reference
		Hydrogen peroxide	-	-
		DL lactic acid	E270	Council Directive 5.11.63 (OJ No 12, 27.1.64) as amended Council Directive 26.1.65 (OJ No 22, 9.2.65) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
		Potassium benzoate	E212	
		Potassium metabisulfite	E224	
		Potassium nitrate	E252	
		Potassium sorbate	E202	
		Propionic acid	E280	
		Propyl-p-hydroxybenzoate	E216	
		Sodium benzoate	E211	
		Sodium diacetate	E262	
		Sodium hydrogen sulfite	E222	
		Sodium metabisulfite	E223	
		Sodium nitrate	E251	
		Sodium nitrite	E250	
		Sodium propionate	E281	
		Sodium sulphite	E221	
		Sorbic acid	E200	
		Sulfur dioxide	E220	
		- Tocopherol	E307	
		Ascorbic acid	E300	
		Ascorbyl palmitate	E304	
		Butylated hydroxyanisol	E320	
		Butylated hydroxytoluene	E321	
		Citric acid	E330	
		Dodecyl gallate	E312	
		Mixed tocopherols	E3 E306	
		Octyl gallate	E311	
		Phosphoric acid	E338	
		Sodium ascorbate	E301	
		Tartaric acid	E334	
				Council Directive 13.7.70 (OJ No L 157, 18.7.70) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
WS/E5469	Antioxidants Synergists			

FAO/WHO Ref.	FAO/WHO Classification	Additive	EEC No.	Reference
WS/E5468	Emulsifiers	Sodium polyphosphate	E450	Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ No General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
		Calcium disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate	-) Subject to national legislation see Council Directive 13.7.70 (OJ No L157, 18.7.70)
		Propyl gallate	-) No Community specification
		Other substances on list		Not permitted in the Community
		Acetic and fatty acid esters of glycerol	Ex-E472) Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ No L189, 12.7.74) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
		Citric and fatty acid esters of glycerol	E472	
		Diacetyl tartaric and fatty acid esters of glycerol	E472	
		Lactic and fatty acid esters of glycerol	E472	
		Lecithin	E322	Council Directive 13.7.70 (OJ No L157, 18.7.70) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
		Mono and diglycerides	E471	
		Polyglycerol esters of fatty acids	E475) Council Directive 18.6.74 (OJ No L189, 12.7.74)
		Propylene glycol esters of fatty acids	E477) General provisions; specific criteria of purity under consideration
		Sucrose esters of fatty acids	E473	
		Cholic acid Desoxycholic acid	- -) Not permitted - but see Article [10] of Council Directive (OJ No L189, 12.7.74)
		Thermally oxidised soy bean oil		
Other substances on list		Subject to national legislation See Annex II of Council Directive (OJ No L189, 12.7.74)		

1. Extract from Council Directive of 23 October 1962 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (OJ 115 of 11.11.1962).

ex Article 8

The Member States shall take all measures necessary:

- to ensure that the colouring matters listed in Annex I, where these are used to colour foodstuffs, satisfy the criteria, both general and specific, laid down in Annex III;
- - to ensure that the products listed in Article 6, where these are used to dilute or dissolve the colouring matters listed in Annex I, satisfy the general criteria of purity laid down in Annex III, Section A (1) and (2) (b).

ex Annex III

A. General Criteria of Purity

Unless otherwise provided in the specific criteria in Section B the colouring matters referred to in Annex I are required to satisfy the following criteria of purity :

1. Inorganic impurities

- (a) They should contain not more than 5 mg/kg of arsenic and not more than 20 mg/kg of lead;
- (b) They should contain not more than 100 mg/kg of the following substances, taken separately: antimony, copper, chromium, zinc, barium sulphate; and not more than 200 mg/kg of these products taken together;
- (c) They should not contain cadmium, mercury, selenium, tellurium, thallium, uranium or chromates, or soluble combinations of barium in detectable quantities.

2. Organic impurities

- (a) They should not contain 2-naphthylamine, benzidine, amino-4-diphenyl (or xenylamine) or their derivatives;
- (b) They should not contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons;

- (c) Synthetic organic colouring matters should contain not more than 0.0% of free aromatic amines;
- (d) Synthetic organic colouring matters should contain not more than 0.5% of intermediate synthetic products other than free aromatic amines;
- (e) Synthetic organic colouring matter should contain not more than 4% of accessory colouring matters (isomers, homologues etc.);
- (f) Sulphonated organic colouring matters should contain not more than 0.2% of substances extractable by diethyl ether.

B. Specific Criteria of Purity

E 150 Caramel

ex. Annex I

- (i) Products obtained exclusively by heating sucrose or other edible sugars or amorphous brown products, soluble in water, obtained by the controlled action of heat on edible sugars in the presence of one or more of the following chemical compounds:
 - acetic, citric, phosphoric, sulphuric and sulphurous acids and sulphur dioxide;
 - ammonium, sodium and potassium hydroxides and ammonium gas;
 - ammonium, sodium and potassium carbonates, phosphates, sulphates and sulphites.

ex Annex III

- (ii) - Ammonia-nitrogen : not more than 0.5% determined according to the Tillmans-Mildner method.
- Sulphur dioxide : not more than 0.1% determined according to the Monier-Williams E.W. Method.
- pH : not less than 1.3.
- Phosphates : not more than 0.5% expressed as P_2O_5 .

- 2. (a) Extract from Council Directive of 5 November 1963 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption. (OJ 12 of 27.1.1964).

Article 7

Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the preservatives listed in the Annex and intended for use in foodstuffs satisfy:

- (a) the following general criteria of purity:
 - they must contain not more than 3 mg/kg of arsenic and not more than 10 mg/kg of lead;
 - they must contain not more than 50 mg/kg of copper and zinc taken together, of which the zinc content must not be higher than 25 mg/kg nor must they contain any measurable trace of toxicologically dangerous elements, in particular other heavy metals; always subject however to any exceptions implicit in the specific criteria referred to in subparagraph (b);
- (b) the specific criteria of purity laid down where appropriate and in accordance with Article 8 (1).

- 2. (b) Council Directive of 26 January 1965 laying down specific criteria of purity for preservatives authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption. (OJ 22 of 9.2.1965 as modified by OJ 126 of 12.7.1965 and OJ 148 of 11.7.1967).

ex Article 4

- 3. Council Directive of 13 July 1970 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the antioxidants authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption. (OJ L 157 of 18.7.1970).

The Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the substances listed in the Annex and intended for use in foodstuffs satisfy:

- (a) the following general criteria of purity:
 - they must contain not more than 3 milligrams per kilogramme of arsenic and not more than 10 milligrams per kilogramme of lead;

- they must contain not more than 50 milligrams per kilogramme of copper and zinc taken together, of which the zinc content must not be higher than 25 milligrams per kilogramme, always subject however to any exceptions implicit in the specific criteria referred to in subparagraph (b);
- they must not contain any measurable trace of toxicologically dangerous elements, in particular other heavy metals

4. Council Directive of 18 June 1974 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs.

Article 6

1. Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the substances listed in Annex I and intended for use in foodstuffs satisfy:

(a) the following general criteria of purity:

- they shall not contain a toxicologically dangerous amount of any element, in particular heavy metals;
- they shall not contain more than 3 mg/kg of arsenic or more than 10 mg/kg of lead;
- they shall not contain more than 50 mg/kg of copper and zinc taken together of which the zinc content must in no case exceed 25 mg/kg

2. Member States shall also ensure that the substances listed in Annex I under :

- E 471 Mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids
- E 472(b) Lactic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids
- E 473 Sucrose-esters of fatty acids
- E 474 Sucroglycerides
- E 475 Polyglycol esters of fatty acids, and
- E 477 Propylene glycol esters of fatty acids.

do not in addition contain more than 6% of sodium, potassium and calcium salts of fatty acids (E 470).