



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

#### Fifty-fourth Session

#### MATTERS RELATED TO AZODICARBONAMIDE (INS 927a)

Prepared by the Codex Secretariat

#### Background

1. At CCFA51 (2019), the Physical Working Group on Alignment noted the safety concern on azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) and request the re-evaluation of this food additive. CCFA51 agreed to include in the JECFA Priority list azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) for JECFA safety assessment as a flour treatment agent. This requested would be confirmed at CCFA52<sup>1</sup>.
2. During CCFA52 (2021), the priority list was reviewed, and the request for the re-evaluation of this food additive was affirmed for consideration at CCFA53<sup>2</sup>.
3. Subsequent to CCFA52, a Circular Letter (CL) requesting information and comments on the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA was issued in November 2021. The responses to the CL were reviewed and discussed at the In-session Working Group on Priorities for Evaluation by JECFA during CCFA53 (2023). The Working Group recommended the removal of azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) from the JECFA priority list due to the absence of a sponsor and relevant data<sup>3</sup>.
4. CCFA53 agreed to forward the revised Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA, which excluded azodicarbonamide, for approval by CAC46 (2023). CAC46 subsequently approved the Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA<sup>4</sup>.
5. Due to safety concerns regarding the safe use of azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) and a lack of support in providing data for re-evaluation, the acceptable daily intake (ADI) for azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) has been withdrawn<sup>5</sup>.
6. According to the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA, CXS 192-1995), azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) is permitted for use in Food Category 06.2.1, with a maximum usage level of 45 mg/kg and associated with Note 467<sup>6</sup>. Azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) is not permitted in any commodity standards.

#### Recommendations

7. Considering the withdrawal of the ADI for azodicarbonamide (INS 927a), it is proposed that CCFA54 consider the deletion of the provision for azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) from the GSFA (see Annex 1 of this document).

<sup>1</sup> [REP19/FA](#) para 45(i)a Appendix XI and [FA/51 CRD03](#).

<sup>2</sup> [REP21/FA](#) Appendix XI

<sup>3</sup> [CL 2021/81-FA](#) and [FA/53 CRD05](#).

<sup>4</sup> [REP23/FA](#) paragraph 143 (i) and Appendix XI, [REP23/CAC](#) paragraph 62 (ii).

<sup>5</sup> <https://apps.who.int/food-additives-contaminants-jecfa-database/Home/Chemical/538>

<sup>6</sup> Note 467: For flours for leavened bread only in products conforming to the [Standard for Wheat Flour](#) (CXS 152-1985).

## Annex 1

**Proposed amendments to the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995): deletion of the provision for azodicarbonamide (INS 927a)**

**A Table 1 of the GSFA:**

<b>Azodicarbonamide: Functional class: Flour treatment agent INS 927a</b>				
<b>Food category No</b>	<b>Food category</b>	<b>Max level</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Year adopted</b>
06.2.1	Flours	45 mg/kg	467	2019

Note 467: For flours for leavened bread only in products conforming to the *Standard for Wheat Flour* (CXS 152-1985).

**B Table 2 of the GSFA:**

<b>Food category No. 06.2.1 Flours</b>				
<b>Additive</b>	<b>INS</b>	<b>Year Adopted</b>	<b>Max Level</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Azodicarbonamide	927a	2019	45 mg/kg	467

Note 467: For flours for leavened bread only in products conforming to the *Standard for Wheat Flour* (CXS 152-1985).