

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 10

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-seventh Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 – 29 April 2005

INVENTORY OF PROCESSING AIDS (IPA) – UPDATED LIST

(Prepared by New Zealand)

COMMENTS

The following comments have been received from: Cuba, European Community, and ELC

Cuba:

We agree to the inventory prepared by New Zealand.

European Community:

The Member States of the European Community (MSEC) would like to thank New Zealand for the work done on updating the inventory of processing aids and supports the proposal for CCFAC to request New Zealand and other interested parties to update the inventory further if new information becomes available.

The MSEC would like to note that the information on the safety of propyl parahydroxybenzoate (propyl paraben), listed for use as “other processing aids”, has recently been assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (opinion expressed on 13 July 2004¹). EFSA established a full-group acceptable daily intake (ADI) of 0-10 mg/kg bw for the sum of methyl and ethyl parabens and their sodium salts, but considered that propyl paraben should not be included in this group ADI. Propyl paraben, contrary to methyl and ethyl paraben, had effects on sex hormones and the male reproductive organs in juvenile rats. Therefore, EFSA was unable to recommend an ADI for propyl paraben because of the lack of clear no-observed-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL).

JECFA has last evaluated parabens in 1973. The MSEC would like to propose that CCFAC request JECFA to re-evaluate the safety of propyl paraben.

ELC:

ELC would like to thank New Zealand for the update of the Inventory of Processing Aids (IPA).

ELC welcomes that the introduction clearly acknowledges the Committee decision to maintain and update the IPA. Also, we support the phrase “*the IPA is intended to catalogue substances [...]*” in so that it implies that the IPA is not exhaustive and it is not a positive list.

¹ Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food on a Request from the Commission related to para hydroxybenzoates (E 214-219), The EFSA Journal (2004) 83, 1-26.

Should a Codex guideline on the use of processing aids be further developed, ELC would propose that it covers only:

Definitions with a clear distinction between food additives and processing aids,

Principles for the use and control of processing aids,

Advice on Good Manufacturing Practice as regards processing aids.

ELC would like to stress that the IPA applies to processing aids used in the manufacture of foodstuffs, **but not to processing aids used in the manufacture of food additives**, of which the production is already regulated by specifications and purity criteria defined by the JECFA.