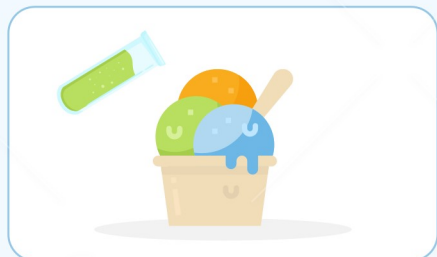
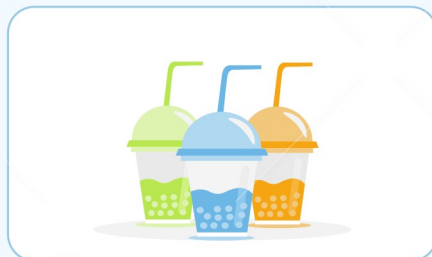




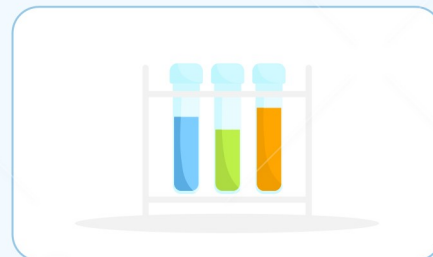
How do we know food additives are safe?



Food additives are substances added to food for a specific purpose.



For instance, they preserve, colour, emulsify, sweeten or flavour the food.



They are not normally consumed by themselves, nor are they normally used as a typical ingredient.

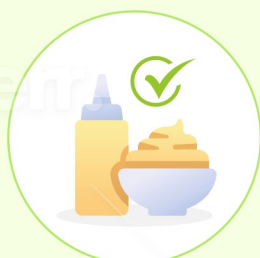
FAO and WHO establish a panel of top experts to assess if the additives can be consumed safely

First, the panel reviews scientific data on a given additive.



Then they decide whether the food additive can be permitted for use.

If yes, the experts determine what amount can be ingested safely daily, even over a lifetime, without risk.



This amount is called:
Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI).

For some substances there is no need to specify the ADI.

Those substances have two characteristics:



very low toxicity



their total consumption through diet does not pose a hazard.

In that case, the ADI is "not specified".



Countries set Codex Alimentarius food safety standards based on this input to protect health and facilitate trade.