



10 January 2017

(17-0156)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/French

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>CANADA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Health Canada
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Amaranth (ICS Code: 67.220.20)
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>All trading partners</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific regions or countries:</b>
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Health Canada's Proposal to Modify the Currently Permitted Uses of the Colouring Agent Amaranth in Various Foods - Reference Number: NOP/AVP-0023. <b>Language(s):</b> English and French. <b>Number of pages:</b> 7 and 8 <a href="http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2017/SPS/CAN/17_0148_00_e.pdf">http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2017/SPS/CAN/17_0148_00_e.pdf</a> <a href="http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2017/SPS/CAN/17_0148_00_f.pdf">http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2017/SPS/CAN/17_0148_00_f.pdf</a>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Health Canada has conducted a re-evaluation of the approved food additive uses of the colouring agent amaranth, which is currently permitted at a maximum level of use of 300 parts per million (p.p.m.), singly or in combination with other specified synthetic colours. The re-evaluation was conducted in support of a broader review of fifty-two azo acid dyes carried out as part of the Government of Canada's Chemicals Management Plan ( <a href="http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/fact-fait/glance-bref/acid_acides-eng.php">http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/fact-fait/glance-bref/acid_acides-eng.php</a> ).  The results of Health Canada's re-evaluation of available data on the concentrations of amaranth actually used in foods sold in Canada reveal that exposure to amaranth is within acceptable levels from a food safety perspective. However, the existing maximum levels of use for amaranth that appear in the <i>List of Permitted Colouring Agents</i> ( <a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php</a> ) are generally higher than actual use levels and would allow for elevated exposures if actual use levels ever increased. In order to ensure that potential exposure to the food colouring agent amaranth remains within acceptable levels, it is the intention of Health Canada to modify the <i>List of Permitted Colouring Agents</i> by creating a unique listing for "Amaranth" (it is currently grouped in the List with five other synthetic colours) and by identifying maximum levels of use and other conditions that align with actual current uses.  As a result of this assessment, it is the intention of Health Canada to modify the <i>List of Permitted Colouring Agents</i> ( <a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php</a> ) as described in the information document. The purpose of this communication is to publically announce the Department's intention in this regard and to provide the appropriate contact information for any inquiries or for those wishing to submit any new scientific information relevant to the safety of this food additive.

7.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
9.	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> Health Canada's Food and Nutrition - "Public Involvement and Partnerships" Website, posted 4 January 2017 (available in English and French):</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/index-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/index-eng.php</a> (English) <a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/index-fra.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/index-fra.php</a> (French)</p>
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> The proposed food additive use will be legally enabled once it is published in Health Canada's <i>List of Permitted Colouring Agents</i> (<a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php</a>).</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy):</b> The food additive use noted in this document comes into force the day on which the modifications are made to the <i>List of Permitted Colouring Agents</i> (<a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/list/3-colour-color-eng.php</a>).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trade facilitating measure</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy):</b> 18 March 2017</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p>
13.	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The "Health Canada's Proposal to Modify the Currently Permitted Uses of the Colouring Agent Amaranth in Various Foods - Reference Number: NOP/AVP-0023" is available through the following weblink:</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/nop-avp-0023/nop-avp-0023-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/nop-avp-0023/nop-avp-0023-eng.php</a> (English) <a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/nop-avp-0023/nop-avp-0023-fra.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consult/nop-avp-0023/nop-avp-0023-fra.php</a> (French)</p>