



26 November 2019

(19-8102)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/French

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: CANADA If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Health Canada
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): Methyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoate (methyl paraben), propyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoate (propyl paraben), and their sodium salts (sodium salt of methyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid and sodium salt of propyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid) (ICS Code: 67.220.20)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Health Canada's Proposal to Revise Permitted Uses of the Food Additives Methyl Paraben, Propyl Paraben and their Sodium Salts in Various Foods - Reference Number: NOP/ADP-0033. Language(s): English and French. Number of pages: 9 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2019/SPS/CAN/19_6669_00_e.pdf https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2019/SPS/CAN/19_6669_00_f.pdf
6. Description of content: Health Canada's Food Directorate is proposing modifications to the parabens' food uses with the objective of ensuring that these uses are up to date and reflective of actual uses in foods sold in Canada. Consequently, Health Canada intends to revise the food categories and maximum levels of use for methyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoate (methyl paraben), propyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoate (propyl paraben), and their sodium salts (sodium salt of methyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid and sodium salt of propyl- <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid) in Part 2 of the <i>List of Permitted Preservatives</i> (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/food-additives/lists-permitted/11-preservatives.html) 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 these food additives.
7. Objective and rationale: <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. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:

Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):

International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):

None

Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?

Yes No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard: The food categories and maximum levels proposed by the Food Directorate are generally in line with those established by regulatory bodies who have more recently assessed permitted parabens maximum levels in food. Differences that exist between international regulations and those that the Food Directorate is proposing are the following: (1) the specific parabens that are allowed in foods (methyl- and ethyl-paraben) are permitted in the European Union and by the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA); (2) the food categories in which they are permitted (more extensive in the United States of America and Codex GSFA); and (3) the levels of parabens in finished foods (higher concentrations in general are permitted in finished foods by other authorities, with the exception of enzyme preparations where concentrations are lower in the European Union).

The difference in specific parabens allowed between Canada, the European Union and the Codex GSFA is the result of the Food Directorate's assessment of new toxicological evidence on the parabens, which does not support the conclusions made by JECFA and EFSA in their respective assessments. Therefore, the Food Directorate includes propyl paraben in its ADI for the parabens and considers that current propyl paraben uses by the food industry are acceptable from a food safety perspective. Contrary to the European Union and Codex GSFA, the Food Directorate has never received a request from the food industry for approval of its use in foods sold in Canada and therefore ethyl-paraben is not currently permitted.

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:

Health Canada's Food and Nutrition - "Public Involvement and Partnerships" Website, posted 15 November 2019 (available in English and French):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/public-involvement-partnerships.html> (English)

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/services/aliments-nutrition/participation-public-partenariats.html> (French)

10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): The proposed food additive modification(s) will be legally enabled once published in Health Canada's *Lists of Permitted Food Additives*

(<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/food-additives/lists-permitted.html>).

Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):

11. Proposed date of entry into force: Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): The food additive modification(s) noted in this document come into force the day they are made to the *Lists of Permitted Food Additives*

(<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/food-additives/lists-permitted.html>).

Trade facilitating measure

12. Final date for comments: [] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 28 January 2020

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

13. Text(s) available from: [] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

"Health Canada's proposal to Revise Permitted Uses of the food additives Methyl Paraben, Propyl Paraben and their Sodium Salts in Various Foods - Reference Number: NOP/ADP-0033" is available through the following weblink:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/public-involvement-partnerships/proposal-revise-permitted-food-additives-methyl-paraben-propyl-paraben.html> (English)

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/services/aliments-nutrition/participation-public-partenariats/proposition-reviser-autorisees-additifs-alimentaires-methylparabene-propylparabene.html> (French)

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