

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

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Issue

At the last meeting Members agreed that the information submitted by the applicant was broadly sufficient to cover all their outstanding concerns on the proposed use of this novel ingredient. The Committee is invited to finalise the text of its opinion, prior to issuing it for public comment.

Background

1. At the September 2007 meeting, Members again considered an application for the authorisation of Phosphated distarch Phosphate as a novel food ingredient (NI). This application was first accepted in 2005 and has been considered by the Committee on a number of occasions (ACNFP/73/2, 74/1, 83/2, 84/3). At the July 2007 meeting, Members had concluded that, *inter alia*, they remained concerned about the potential for the NI to give rise to gastro-intestinal (GI) intolerance in young children.
2. At the September meeting Members considered a final response from the applicant, who suggested that, whilst there remained a possibility that high level consumption by young children may induce GI intolerance, the proposed levels of incorporation and dietary survey data indicated that this was extremely unlikely to occur in practice (ACNFP/84/3). Members accepted that GI intolerance in children is of concern for all 'fibre' and 'fibre like' products and there are no data that give any indication that the NI would be of greater concern than other products. Members also agreed with the applicant's suggestion that an advisory statement could be used to warn of the potential for intolerance in young children, but advised that this statement be placed on all products that contain the ingredient as it was not possible to predict which of the food categories listed by the applicant would and would not be consumed by young children.
3. The Committee also accepted that the applicant's proposal for an alternative name for the NI was sufficiently informative and appeared to be in line with EU food labelling regulations. Members noted that the applicant accepted that they cannot make any reference to the term "fibre" on products marketed in the UK containing the NI.

Committee Action Required

4. The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the draft opinion attached at **Annex 1** and to indicate whether this accurately reflects the Committee's views.

5. Once the text is agreed, the draft opinion will be published via the website for a short period of public comment (10 days). The Committee's final opinion will be forwarded to the Commission as the basis for the UK's formal initial assessment report on this application.

Secretariat
November 2007

Annex attached:

Annex 1 – Draft Opinion (restricted)

ANNEX 1 to ACNFP/85/1

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Draft opinion

**Secretariat
November 2007**