Food additives: tartaric acid and tartrates

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1451 as regards the food additives tartaric acid (L(+)-) (E 334), sodium tartrates (E 335), potassium tartrates (E 336), sodium potassium tartrate (E 337) and calcium tartrate (E 354)

What is changing and why?

The EU has introduced conditions of use for tartaric acid and tartrates (E 334–337 and E 354) in many food categories (see Table 1 for details). This is because, after consulting food businesses, the European Food Safety Authority has re-evaluated these additives and established an acceptable daily intake level for this group. Where food businesses provided no technical data to support reauthorisation for a specific food category or use, the Commission considered that there was no interest, and the authorisation has been withdrawn.

Actions

Suppliers of foods containing tartaric acid and tartrates (E 334–337 and E 354) must comply with the new maximum levels set for each food category, and ensure that these additives are not used in food categories for which their use is no longer authorised.

Timeline

Date of application: **16 December 2024**.

Foods containing these additives may remain on the market until their date of minimum durability or use-by date, even if they do not comply with the new rules, provided they have been lawfully placed on the market before 16 December 2024.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum levels for certain food additives

Food additive	Category (category number)	Previous level[1]	New level (mg/kg)
E 334–337, E 354	Unflavoured fermented milk products (01.3)	Not specified	750
E 334–337, E 354	Dairy analogues (01.8), protein products, processed potato products (04.2.6), soups and broths (12.5)	Not specified	240
E 334–337, E 354	Fat and oil emulsions (02.2.2)	Not specified	1,300
E 334 -337	Canned or bottled fruit and vegetables (04.2.3)	Not specified	9,000[2]
E 334–337, E 354	Fruit and vegetable preparations (excluding compote) (04.2.4.1)	Not specified	3,000
E 334, E 335	Extra jam and extra jelly (04.2.5.1), jam, jellies and marmalades (0.4.2.5.2), other similar fruit or vegetable spreads (0.4.2.5.3)	Allowed	Deleted
E 334–337, E 354	Other confectionery (05.2), chewing gum (05.3)	Not specified	25,000
E 334–337, E 354	Decorations, coatings, and fillings (05.4)	Not specified	11,000
E 334	Fresh pasta (06.4.1), fresh pre-cooked pasta (06.4.3), potato gnocchi (06.4.4)	Allowed	Deleted
E 334–337, E 354	Pre-cooked or processed cereals (06.7)	Not specified	740
E 334–337, E 354	Bread and rolls (07.1)	Not specified	15,000[3]
E 334–337, E 354	Fine bakery wares (07.2)	Not specified	18,000
E 334–337, E 354	Heat-treated meat products (08.3.2)	Not specified	3,000[4]
E 334–337, E 354	Processed fish and fishery products (09.2)	Not specified	2,300
E 336	Table-top sweeteners in powder form (11.4.2)	Allowed	Deleted
E 334, E 336	Table-top sweeteners in tablets (11.4.3)	Not specified	270,000[2]
E 334–337, E 354	Seasonings and condiments (12.2.2)	Not specified	17,000
E 334–337, E 354	Mustard (12.4)	Not specified	12,000
E 334–337, E 354	Sauces (12.6), flavoured drinks (14.1.4)	Not specified	4,000
E 334–337, E 354	Salads and savoury-based sandwich spreads (12.7)	Not specified	1,800
E 334, E 335, E 336	Processed cereal-based foods, baby foods (13.1.3)	5,000	5,000[2]
E 354	Processed cereal-based foods, baby foods (13.1.3)	5,000	Deleted
E 336	Fruit juices, vegetable juices	Allowed	Deleted
E 334–337, E 354	Spirit drinks (14.2.6)	Not specified	1,000[2]
E 334–337, E 354	Aromatised wines (14.2.7.1), wine-based drinks (14.2.7.2), wine-product cocktails (14.2.7.3), other alcoholic beverages including mixtures with non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages <15% strength (14.2.8)	Not specified	8,000
E 334–337, E 354	Potato-, cereal-, flour-, starch-based snacks (15.1)	Not specified	60,000
E 334–337, E 354	Desserts (16)	Not specified	3,000[3]
E 334–337, E 354	Food supplements (solid, non-chewable) (17.1)	Not specified	100,000[5]
E 334–337, E 354	Food supplements (solid, chewable) (17.1)	Not specified	130,000[5]
E 334–337, E 354	Food supplements (liquid) (17.2)	Not specified	6,000[5]

This simplified overview does not cover all the details in the Annexes.
1. Not specified: previous levels were not provided; Deleted: additive no longer permitted in that category.
2. Applies individually or combined.
3. Except specified subcategories.
4. Except *foie gras*, *libamáj*.
5. Except for infants, young children.

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Source: Regulation 2024/1451, Annex I

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