Changes to specifications of the novel food galacto-oligosaccharide

Published by AGRINFO on 18 Apr 2024

Specification for galacto-oligosaccharide no longer requires minimum galactose level

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1027 of 8 April 2024 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 as regards the specifications of the novel food galacto-oligosaccharide

Update

The EU has removed the requirement for a minimum level of galactose in galacto-oligosaccharide. This novel food ingredient will no longer have to contain a specific amount of galactose to be approved for use in foods.

Impacted products

Food and beverage products including food supplements, dairy products, juice, cereal bars

What is changing?

The EU has removed the requirement for a minimum level of galactose in galacto-oligosaccharide. Previously this novel food ingredient had to contain at least 0.8% galactose (a type of sugar) based on its dry weight. Now this minimum requirement has been removed and galacto-oligosaccharide will no longer have to contain a specific amount of galactose to be approved for use in foods.

Why?

The company FrieslandCampina Ingredients requested to remove galactose from the specifications for galacto-oligosaccharide because additional purification steps in its production process remove monosaccharides like galactose to produce a higher purity product. The EU noted that galactose has a history of safe use in normal diets and does not raise safety concerns, so the specifications for galacto-oligosaccharide as a novel food do not need to require a certain level of galactose.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Timeline

The Regulation will enter into force on **28 April 2024**.

Background

This Regulation updates the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 which lists all authorised novel foods permitted on the EU market (see Union list of novel foods).

For further information on the EU novel foods authorisation process, see Novel foods explained.

Resources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 establishing the Union list of novel foods

Sources

Regulation (EU) 2024/1027 as regards the specifications of the novel food galacto-oligosaccharide

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*