

# Changes to specifications of the novel food galacto-oligosaccharide

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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.

## 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

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