Collagen exempted from semicarbazide reference point for action

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2858 as regards the application of reference points for action for nitrofurans and their metabolites in collagen

What is changing and why?

The European Union has set strict rules for certain non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food animal products to protect consumers (Regulation 2019/1871). This includes semicarbazide (SEM), a metabolite of nitrofurans, with a limit (reference point of action, RPA) of 0.5 µg/kg. If the RPA in animal products is exceeded, those products are considered unsafe and cannot be sold in the EU.

However, in some cases, SEM can appear naturally during the processing of certain products (such as gelatine or milk protein), rather than due to the illegal use of nitrofurans. For these specific processed products, the strict limit (RPA) does not apply unless other evidence of illegal nitrofuran use is found.

Recent studies show that processing collagen can cause SEM to form naturally. As a result, collagen has now been added to the list of products where the SEM limit (RPA) does not automatically apply, unless there is proof of illegal nitrofuran use. This ensures that products processed in specific ways are not unfairly banned from the market.

Timeline

The exemption of collagen will apply from **3 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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