Flavouring substance 4-methyl-2-phenylpent-2-enal

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/147 as regards the removal of the flavouring substance 4-Methyl-2-phenylpent-2-enal (FL No 05.100) from the Union list

What is changing and why?

The European Union authorises certain flavouring substances to be used in foods in the EU and, where necessary, puts restrictions on their use (Regulation 1334/2008, Annex I). The European Commission has removed 4-methyl-2-phenylpent-2-enal from the Union list because the European Food Safety Authority has concluded that safety concerns regarding its genotoxicity (the ability of a substance to damage the genetic information within a cell) cannot be ruled out.

The use of this substance was already restricted (see New restrictions on the use of certain flavouring substances). As no data was submitted to support continued use of the flavouring, it is now being prohibited.

Actions

Companies that export food products containing 4-methyl-2-phenylpent-2-enal as a flavouring can look for alternative EU-compliant substances in the Food Flavourings Database.

Timeline

From **19 February 2025** food containing 4-methyl-2-phenylpent-2-enal will no longer be able to enter the EU market. Foods containing 4-methyl-2-phenylpent-2-enal imported into the EU before 19 February 2025 may continue to be marketed until their use-by date if the importer can demonstrate that the products were in transit to the EU before 19 February 2025.

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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