Flavourings: Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one

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EU authorises flavourings Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1

Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1112 of 4 June 2025 amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 as regards the inclusion of Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one in the Union list of flavourings

Update

The European Union (EU) has added Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one to the list of flavourings that can be used in foods.

Impacted products

Milk products, cheese and cheese products, edible ices, cocoa and chocolate products, confectionery, chewing gum, breakfast cereals, meat preparations, meat products, table-top sweeteners, herbs, spices, seasonings, soups and broths, protein products, non-alcoholic beverages, potato-, cereal-, flour-, or starch-based snacks, desserts, flavoured drinks

What is changing?

The EU has added Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one to the list of flavourings that can be used in foods.

- Naringenin is only authorised to be used in certain categories of food, as detailed in Table 1.
- 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one is only authorised to be used in chewing gum, as detailed in Table 2.

For more information on food categories, see the Guidance from the European Commission (2024).

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Why?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) evaluated the safety of Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one under specific conditions in certain foods, and concluded that there is no safety concern at the levels proposed by the applicant (EFSA 2024a, 2024b).

Timeline

Products in Tables 1 and 2 containing Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one, respectively, can be placed on the EU market from **25 June 2025**.

Background

Regulation 1334/2008 prohibits adding certain undesirable natural substances to food. It also lays down maximum levels for some substances that are naturally present in flavourings, but that may raise concerns for human health. The Regulation defines different types of flavourings, and lists the substances for which evaluation and approval is required.

The Union list of flavouring substances approved for use in and on foods (Regulation 872/2012) was adopted in 2012.

When EFSA evaluates flavouring substances, it allocates them a unique identification number called an FL-number. FL comes from “FLAVIS”, the EU’s flavouring information system. The FL numbers for these substances are:

- Naringenin: 16.132
- 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one: 16.134.

The FL-number is not used for labelling purposes.

Resources

EFSA (2024a) Flavouring Group Evaluation 413 (FGE.413): Naringenin. EFSA Journal, 22(5): e8747.

EFSA (2024b) Flavouring group evaluation 419 (FGE.419): 2■methyl■1■(2■(5■(p■tolyl)■1H■imidazol■2■yl)piperidin■1■yl)butan■1■one. EFSA

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Journal, 22(5): e8750.

European Commission (2024) Guidance document describing the food categories in Part E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on Food Additives.

Regulation 1334/2008 on flavourings and certain food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods

Regulation 1331/2008 establishing a common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings

Sources

Commission Regulation 2025/1112 as regards the inclusion of Naringenin and 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one in the Union list of flavourings

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Specific conditions of use of Naringenin

Food category	Description[1]	Not more than (mg/kg)
1.4	Flavoured fermented milk products including heat-treated products	500
1.7	Cheese and cheese products	200
1.8 (only soy based)	Dairy analogues, including beverage whiteners	500
3	Edible ices	200
5.1	Cocoa and chocolate products	400
5.2	Other confectionery including breath freshening micro-sweets	400
5.3	Chewing gum	400
6.3	Breakfast cereals	200
8.2	Meat preparations	200
8.3	Meat products	200
11.4	Table-top sweeteners	200
12.2	Herbs, spices, seasonings	1,000
12.5	Soups and broths	200
12.9	Certain protein products	500
14.1	Non-alcoholic beverages	300
14.1.4 (only dairy based and soy based)	Flavoured drinks	500
15.1	Potato-, cereal-, flour- or starch-based snacks	400
16 (only dairy based and soy based)	Certain desserts	500

1. For further details on these food categories, see European Commission (2024).

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Source: Regulation 2025/1112

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Table 2 Specific conditions of use of 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one		
Food category	Description	Condition
5.3	Chewing gum	Not more than 100 mg/kg
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Source: Regulation 2025/1112

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