Food additives: curdlan (E 424)

Published by AGRINFO on 29 Oct 2026

Regulation (EU) 2026/2298 as regards the use of curdlan

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has approved curdlan (E 424) as a gelling, firming, stabilising, and thickening agent for use in the products listed in Table 1. This approval follows a favourable safety assessment by the European Food Safety Authority. The use of curdlan must comply with maximum levels, restrictions, and strict purity specifications depending on the food category.

Timeline

Curdlan (E 424) can be used in the products listed in Table 1 from **8 November 2026**.

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.

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

Tables & Figures

Table 1: Food categories in which curdlan (E 424) may be used, maximum permitted levels, and conditions of use

Food category	Food category number	Maximum level (mg/L or mg/kg as appropriate)	Conditions of use and restrictions*
Processed cheese	01.7.5	40,000	–
Other fat and oil emulsions including spreads and liquid emulsions	02.2.2	50,000	–
Edible ices	03	30,000	–
Dried fruit and vegetables	04.2.1	50,000	May not be used to produce dehydrated foods intended to rehydrate on ingestion
Fruit and vegetables in vinegar, oil, or brine	04.2.2	50,000	–
Canned or bottled fruit and vegetables	04.2.3	50,000	Only chestnuts in liquid
Fruit and vegetable preparations excluding compote	04.2.4.1	50,000	–
Other similar fruit or vegetable spreads	04.2.5.3	10,000	Maximum individually or in combination with E 400–404, E 406, E 407, E 410, E 412, E 415, E 418
Nut butters and nut spreads	04.2.5.4	50,000	–
Processed potato products	04.2.6	50,000	–
Cocoa and chocolate products (as covered by Directive 2000/36/EC)	05.1	30,000	Only energy-reduced products or products with no added sugar
Other confectionery including breath-freshening microsweets	05.2	50,000	May not be used in jelly mini-cups; may not be used to produce dehydrated foods intended to rehydrate on ingestion
Chewing gum	05.3	10,000	–
Decorations, coatings, and fillings (except fruit-based fillings covered by category 04.2.4)	05.4	5 000	–
Breakfast cereals	06.3	20,000	–

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

Food category	Food category number	Maximum level (mg/L or mg/kg as appropriate)	Conditions of use and restrictions*
Dry pasta	06.4.2	20,000	Only gluten-free pasta (specially produced to reduce gluten content or substitute for gluten-containing ingredients) and pasta intended for hypoproteic diets
Potato gnocchi	06.4.4	20,000	Except fresh refrigerated potato gnocchi
Fillings of stuffed pasta (ravioli etc.)	06.4.5	20,000	–
Noodles	06.5	20,000	–
Batters	06.6	5 000	–
Bread and rolls	07.1	20,000	Except products in categories 07.1.1 and 07.1.2
Fine bakery wares	07.2	20,000	–
Meat preparations (as defined by Regulation (EC) No 853/2004)	08.2	20,000	Only heat-treated preparations in which ingredients have been injected; or preparations composed of meats that have been handled differently (minced, sliced, processed) and combined; excludes bifteki, soutzoukaki, kebap, gyros, souvlaki
Heat-treated meat products	08.3.2	20,000	Except goose livers: foie gras, foie gras entier, blocs de foie gras, libamáj, libamáj egészben, libamáj tömbben
Casings, coatings, and decorations for meat	08.3.3	20,000	–
Processed fish and fishery products including molluscs and crustaceans	09.2	30,000	–
Processed eggs and egg products	10.2	20,000	–
Mustard	12.4	30,000	–
Soups and broths	12.5	10,000	–

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

Food category	Food category number	Maximum level (mg/L or mg/kg as appropriate)	Conditions of use and restrictions*
Sauces	12.6	30,000	–
Salads and savoury-based sandwich spreads	12.7	30,000	–
Protein products (excluding products covered by category 01.8)	12.9	80,000	–
Potato-, cereal-, flour-, or starch-based snacks	15.1	10,000	–
Desserts (excluding products covered by categories 01, 03, and 04)	16	30,000	–

*A dash (–) means that Regulation 2026/2298 does not specify an additional restriction for E 424 in that food category. The authorisation remains subject to the general provisions of EU food additives legislation.

Source: based on Regulation 2026/2298

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.*