Food additives: sorbates and propyl gallate

Published by AGRINFO on 02 Jul 2024; Revised 07 Oct 2024

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2597 as regards the use of sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202) and as regards the specifications for sorbic acid (E 200), potassium sorbate (E 202) and propyl gallate (E 310)

What is changing and why?

The European Commission has made the following changes to the use of sorbates and propyl gallate as food additives.

- Sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202): Reduction of maximum levels for arsenic and lead to 0.1 mg/kg, and for mercury to 0.01 mg/kg. A new maximum limit of 0.1 mg/kg for zinc.
- Potassium sorbate (E 202): Amendment of description to include the granular form.
- Propyl gallate (E 310): Amendment of description to restrict the use of catalysts in the manufacturing process of the food additive; reduction of maximum limits for arsenic and mercury to 0.1 mg/kg and for lead to 0.3 mg/kg.
- Sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202): Authorisation of their use in fruit-flavoured water-based gelatine desserts at a maximum level of 1000 mg/kg.

Actions

Suppliers of foods containing sorbates and propyl gallate must comply with the new maximum levels and restrict the use of catalysts in the manufacturing process of propyl gallate (E 310).

Timeline

Applies from **27 October 2024**.

Foods containing sorbic acid (E 200), potassium sorbate (E 202), or propyl gallate (E 310) that were placed on the market before 27 April 2025 can be sold until the stocks are exhausted.

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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