Novel food: astaxanthin-rich oleoresin from algae

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Regulation 2024/1026 as regards the specifications of the novel food astaxanthin-rich oleoresin from *Haematococcus pluvialis* algae

What is changing and why?

The European Commission approved a change in the specifications of the novel food astaxanthin-rich oleoresin from *Haematococcus pluvialis* algae. Food supplements containing astaxanthin (ATX), a carotenoid, are authorised for adults, for children 3–10 years old, and adolescents 10–14 years old. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that its use is safe as long as the intake of ATX does not exceed the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) of 0.2 mg/kg body weight per day. This Regulation authorises lower minimum limits for protein and ATX monoesters, and increased maximum limits for ATX diesters and the 9-cis stereoisomer in total ATX (see Table 1).

Actions

Exporters of food supplements containing this substance must ensure that the new specifications set out in Table 1 are respected.

Timeline

The new specifications apply from **29 April 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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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Specification limits for protein and astaxanthin (ATX) in oleoresin from *Haematococcus pluvialis* algae

Specification	% Weight / weight of (total) carotenoids	
	Old (range)	New (range)
ATX monoesters	79.8–91.5%	66.7–91.5%
ATX diesters	0.16–19.0%	0.16–32.5%
ATX 9-cis stereoisomer	0.3–17.3%	0.3–30.0%
Protein content	0.3–4.4%	0.0–4.4%

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Source: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1026

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