Novel food: Lacto-N-tetraose

Published by AGRINFO on 11 Jan 2023

European Commission authorises Lacto-N-tetraose produced by derivative strains of E. coli as a novel food

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/7 of 3 January 2023 authorising the placing on the market of Lacto-N-tetraose produced by derivative strains of Escherichia coli BL21(DE3) as a novel food and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470

Update

The European Commission has authorised Lacto-N-tetraose produced by derivative strains of *Escherichia coli* BL21(DE3) as a novel food.

Impacted products

infant formulas, processed cereal-based foods, milk-based drinks, foods for special medical purposes, food supplements

What is changing?

The EU has authorised that Lacto-N-tetraose produced by derivative strains of *E. coli* BL21(DE3) may be placed on the EU market as a novel food. The food can be used in infant formula, follow-on formula, processed cereal-based foods, milk based drinks, foods for special medical purposes for infants and young children, foods for special medical purposes and food supplements. Details on the permitted use are set out in the Annex to the Regulation.

Only the company that applied for the authorisation, Chr. Hansen A/S, is authorised to place the novel food on the EU market for a period of 5 years, unless another company obtains a novel food authorisation for Lacto-N-tetraose produced by derivative strains of *E. coli* BL21(DE3) (without reference to scientific data protected by Chr. Hansen) or with the agreement of Chr. Hansen.

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

Timeline

The 5-year period of exclusive rights of Chr. Hansen to put this novel food on the market begins on 24 January 2023.

Background

This Regulation updates the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 which lists authorised novel foods (see the Union list of novel foods).

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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.*