Stricter specifications for mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (E 471)

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Regulation (EU) 2023/1428

What is changing and why?

The EU is updating its regulations for mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids, also known as E 471. The new rules will reduce allowable levels of harmful substances like arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium. They are also introducing stricter production methods to decrease the presence of glycidyl fatty acid esters. This comes after recent studies showed that E 471 has high levels of these esters, which are considered genotoxic and can cause cancer. The changes are in line with the EU's recent updates to its laws on contaminants.

Actions

Countries sending food products containing E 471 to the EU must follow the new rules. If not, the EU might block their products, leading to financial losses and trade issues. Food suppliers with E 471 should update their production and safety checks to meet these rules.

Timeline

The new rules for E 471 are operating from 30 July 2023. But if E 471 was legally on the EU market before then, it can be used in food until 30 January 2024. Between those dates there is a temporary limit for glycidyl fatty acid esters. For baby and toddler foods, the new limit begins on 30 July 2023.

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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