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# Notice of Modification to the *List of Permitted Sweeteners* to Enable the Use of Steviol Glycosides as a Sweetener in Various Unstandardized Snack Bars

Notice of Modification – *Lists of Permitted Food Additives*

Reference Number: [NOM/ADM-0098]

August 2, 2017

Bureau of Chemical Safety  
Food Directorate  
Health Products and Food Branch



Canada

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### Summary

Food additives are regulated in Canada under [Marketing Authorizations](#) (MAs) issued by the Minister of Health and the *Food and Drug Regulations* (Regulations). Approved food additives and their permitted conditions of use are set out in the [Lists of Permitted Food Additives](#) that are incorporated by reference in the MAs and published on Health Canada's website. A petitioner can request that Health Canada approve a new additive or a new condition of use for an already approved food additive by filing a food additive submission with the Department's Food Directorate. Health Canada uses this premarket approval process to determine whether the scientific data support the safety of food additives when used under specified conditions in foods sold in Canada.

Health Canada received two food additive submissions that together seek approval for the use of steviol glycosides as a sweetener in snack bars including, but not limited to granola bars, cereal bars, fibre bars, and protein isolate-based bars. The requested maximum level of use for protein isolate-based bars is 0.02% (calculated as steviol equivalents) and for the other snack bars is 0.04% (calculated as steviol equivalents).

Steviol glycosides<sup>1</sup> is already permitted for use in Canada as a sweetener in assorted unstandardized foods. The results of Health Canada's evaluation of available scientific data support the safety of steviol glycosides for use in the various unstandardized snack bars of interest up to a maximum level of use of 0.04% (calculated as steviol equivalents). Therefore, Health Canada has modified the [List of Permitted Sweeteners](#) to extend the use of steviol glycosides by adding the entry shown in the table below to the list.

The term "unstandardized snack bars" is a food category that, for the purposes of the food additive provisions, covers such products as granola bars, cereal bars, etc. but it does **not** include the following food categories, even when sold in a "bar" format:

- "unstandardized confectionery" (which is already permitted to contain steviol glycosides at a level of up to 0.07%, calculated as steviol equivalents);
- "unstandardized chocolate confectionery" (which is already permitted to contain steviol glycosides at a level of up to 0.035%, calculated as steviol equivalents);
- chocolate products that are subject to a compositional standard set out in Division 4 of the Regulations;
- "frozen novelties" such as unstandardized ice cream bars or unstandardized ice cream sandwiches;
- "meal replacement bars" or "nutritional supplement bars" (which are already permitted to contain steviol glycosides at a level of up to 0.02%, calculated as steviol equivalents).

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<sup>1</sup> The term "steviol glycosides" is used in the singular to denote a single food additive even though the additive can comprise more than one steviol glycoside.

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### Modification to the *List of Permitted Sweeteners*

Item No.	Column 1 Additive	Column 2 Permitted in or Upon	Column 3 Maximum Level of Use and Other Conditions
S.1.2	Steviol glycosides (One or any combination of Stevioside, Rebaudioside A, Rebaudioside B, Rebaudioside C, Rebaudioside D, Rebaudioside F, Rebaudioside M, Dulcoside A, Rubusoside, and Steviolbioside, such that the total steviol glycosides content is not less than 95%)	(9) Unstandardized snack bars	(9) 0.04% (calculated as steviol equivalents)

### Rationale

Health Canada's Food Directorate completed a premarket safety assessment of the requested uses of steviol glycosides in unstandardized snack bars. The assessment did not identify any chemical, nutritional, microbiological or toxicological food safety concerns with these uses of this sweetener. Therefore, Health Canada has enabled the requested uses of steviol glycosides by modifying the [\*List of Permitted Sweeteners\*](#) as set out in the above table.

### Other Relevant Information

The *Food and Drug Regulations* require that food additives such as steviol glycosides that do not have food-grade specifications set out in Part B of the Regulations meet the most recent food-grade specifications set out in the *Food Chemicals Codex* or the *Combined Compendium of Food Additive Specifications*. The *Food Chemicals Codex* is a compendium of standards for purity and identity for food ingredients, including food additives, published by the United States Pharmacopeial Convention. The *Combined Compendium of Food Additive Specifications*, which contains specifications prepared by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), is published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

### Implementation and Enforcement

The above modification came into force **August 2, 2017**, the day it was published in the [\*List of Permitted Sweeteners\*](#).

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for the enforcement of the *Food and Drugs Act* and its associated regulations with respect to foods.

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### Contact Information

Health Canada's Food Directorate is committed to reviewing any new scientific information on the safety in use of any food additive, including steviol glycosides. Anyone wishing to submit new scientific information on the use of this additive or to submit any inquiries may do so in writing, by regular mail or electronically. If you wish to contact the Food Directorate electronically, please use the words "**steviol glycosides in snack bars**" in the subject line of your e-mail.

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