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Notice of Modification to the *List of Permitted Food Additives with Other Generally Accepted Uses* to Enable the Use of Tannic Acid as a Fining Agent in Ale, Beer, Malt Liquor, Porter and Stout

Notice of Modification – *Lists of Permitted Food Additives*

Reference Number: [NOM/ADM-0021]

January 09, 2014

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*. 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. 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 has been requested to approve the use of tannic acid as a fining agent in beer, ale, malt liquor, porter and stout at a maximum level of use of 10 p.p.m.

Tannic acid is already permitted for use in Canada as a fining agent in cider, honey wine and wine.

The results of Health Canada's evaluation of available scientific data support the safety of tannic acid when used as a fining agent in the requested beverages. Therefore, Health Canada has modified the [List of Permitted Food Additives with Other Generally Accepted Uses](#) to extend the use of tannic acid by adding the entry to the List as set out below.

Modification to the *List of Permitted Food Additives with Other Generally Accepted Uses*

Item No.	Column 1 Additive	Column 2 Permitted in or upon	Column 3 Purpose of Use	Column 4 Maximum Level of Use and Other Conditions
T.2	Tannic acid	(3) Ale; Beer; Malt liquor; Porter; Stout	(3) Fining agent	(3) 10 p.p.m.

Rationale

Health Canada's Food Directorate completed a pre-market safety assessment of tannic acid used as a fining agent. The assessment considered toxicological, microbial, nutritional and technical aspects of this use of tannic acid.

Tannic acid used in foods sold in Canada must meet the food-grade specifications set out in the most recent edition of the *Food Chemicals Codex* (FCC). FCC is a compendium of standards for the purity and identity of food ingredients, including food additives, which is published by the United States Pharmacopeial Convention.

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Since the request to Health Canada was for the use of tannic acid in foods that are standardized under the *Food and Drug Regulations*, Health Canada consulted with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the appropriate food industry association, both of which had no objection to the use of tannic acid as set out in the above table.

Based on the results of the safety assessment, Health Canada's Food Directorate considers that the data support the safety of tannic acid when used under the conditions of use set out in the table above. The Department has therefore enabled the use tannic acid as described in the table.

Other Relevant Information

Some fining agents used in manufacturing alcoholic beverages are listed in the *List of Permitted Food Additives with Other Generally Accepted Uses* while others are considered processing aids. In addition, the compositional standards for certain alcoholic beverages, including beer, specifically identify which fining agents may be used in the manufacture of those beverages. The addition of tannic acid as described above to the *List of Permitted Food Additives with Other Generally Accepted Uses* enables its use in ale, beer, malt liquor, porter and stout.

Implementation and Enforcement

The above modification came into force on January 09, 2014, the day it was published in the [*List of Permitted Food Additives with Other Generally Accepted Uses*](#).

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

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 tannic acid. 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 "**tannic acid**" in the subject line of your e-mail.

[Bureau of Chemical Safety, Food Directorate](#)

251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway
Tunney's Pasture, PL: 2202C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2
E-mail: bc-s-bipc@hc-sc.gc.ca