



20 January 2022

(22-0450)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: <u>SWITZERLAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Food products
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Ordinance on additives (F: Ordonnance du DFI sur les additifs admis dans les denrées alimentaires / D: Verordnung des EDI über die zulässigen Zusatzstoffe in Lebensmitteln). Language(s): French and German. Number of pages: 7 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2022/SPS/CHE/22_0587_00_f.pdf https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2022/SPS/CHE/22_0587_00_x1.pdf
6. Description of content: The text removes the authorization to use titanium dioxide (E 171) in foods based on the recent scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluding that titanium dioxide can no longer be considered as safe when used as a food additive. In order to allow for a smooth transition, the text lays down that foods that contain titanium dioxide (E 171) used in accordance with the rules applicable before the date of entry into force of the ordinance may be placed on the market until six months after that date. Those foods may then continue to be marketed until their date of minimum durability or "use by" date.
7. Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. On 6 May 2021, EFSA published an updated safety assessment for E 171. According to this, E 171 is no longer considered safe for use as a food additive. The EFSA safety assessment found that titanium dioxide is absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract to a very low extent, but takes a long time to be excreted from the body. In addition, titanium dioxide has the potential to accumulate in tissues. After evaluation of the available data, the suspicion of a mutagenic effect of titanium dioxide could not be invalidated. Based on this safety assessment, Switzerland decided that this additive should no longer be used in food.
8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): Codex General Standard for Food Additives - Codex Stan 192-1995

<p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard: The measure to no longer allow the use of titanium dioxide in foods is the consistent application of the knowledge gained from the recent EFSA scientific opinion on titanium dioxide (E 171). It concluded that titanium dioxide can no longer be considered as safe when used as a food additive.</p>
<p>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Safety assessment of titanium dioxide (E171) as a food additive (European Food Safety Authority, EFSA Journal 2021; 19(5):6585, https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6585 (available in English))</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): 14 February 2022</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 14 February 2022</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 15 March 2022 There is a transition period of six months after entry into force.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 8 February 2022</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>State Secretariate for Economic Affairs SECO Holzikofenweg 36, 3003 Bern Switzerland E-mail: sps@seco.admin.ch</p>
<p>13. Text(s) available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>State Secretariate for Economic Affairs SECO Holzikofenweg 36, 3003 Bern Switzerland E-mail: sps@seco.admin.ch</p>