CONSULTATION ON THE FOOD ADDITIVES/ FOOD FLAVOURINGS DATA MODELS

IDATA team

efsa

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

New collaborative group composed by <u>industrial companies/representatives and other associations</u> to facilitate the **exchange of information and knowledge** related to different **data collections** such as food additives, food flavourings, and chemical contaminants.

➢ If you are still having issues to access the group in Teams, please contact **servicedesk@efsa.europa.eu**

CONSULTATION ON THE FOOD ADDITIVES/FOOD FLAVOURINGS DATA MODELS

KI Food Additives and Food Flavourings Monitoring

- Consultation on the **Use-Level** and **Negative Presence ("Not present on label"**) DM was sent:

  - **via Teams** (20/11/2023)

  - **via email** (08/12/2023)

- **Six - three weeks** to provide comments

- Shared documents:

  - The two draft Guidance

  - Excel files for comments

COMMENTS RECEIVED

- **44 comments** received:

  - ➢ 25 Use-level DM (22 Guidance + 3 Excel)

  - ➢ 19 Negative presence **"Not present on label"** DM (12 Guidance + 7 Excel)

- From **Der Backzutatenverband e. V.** (Germany), **European Flavour Association (EFFA), European Snacks Association (ESA)**, **FoodDrinkEurope**, **International Organization of the Flavor Industry (IOFI)**, and **North Carolina State University** (USA)

USE-LEVEL DATA MODEL - COMMENTS

➢ **Use levels guidance targets Industry and MS**

➢ **Report use levels data (single recipe)** → Use typical use-level element

(minLevel = typicalLevel = maxLevel)

➢ **Clarifications in some definitions** (e. g. niche product for widelyConsumed)

➢ **MPLs pre-assignment** (to be implemented in the future)

➢ **Identification code and record identification code** (assigned by the DP)

➢ **Restriction/exception** (EC No 1334/2008 will be included)

➢ **Mandatory to optional if needed** (e. g. year and country of sampling)

➤ **Presence/Used (onLabel)**

This data element indicates whether the FA/FF is used in the reported product

CONCLUS catalogue options:

1) Yes, present on the label

2) No, not present on the label

3) Natural occurrence (mainly analytical data)

4) Nutrients

LABELLING:

• Food additives (legal requirement)

• Food flavourings (NO legal requirement)

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CONCLUS catalogue options:

Food additives
(legal labelling)

1) Yes, present on the label → **FA indicated on the label**

2) No, not present on the label → **FA nonuse in particular food within a food category**

(e. g., citric acid is used in the soft drinks category, but it is not used in a specific soft drink)

3) Natural occurrence (mainly analytical data)

4) Nutrients

Other options to be included?? Transfer additives, source of nutrients, packaging gases

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Food flavourings
(NOT legal labelling)

CONCLUS catalogue options:

1) Yes, present on the label → **specific FF compound indicated on the label (NOT just "flavourings" on the label)**

2) No, not present on the label → **FF nonuse in particular food within a food category** (e. g., vanilla is used in the soft drinks category, but it is not used in a specific soft drink)

3) Natural occurrence (mainly analytical data)

4) Nutrients

Importance of reporting **presence data together with use levels data**

USE LEVELS Data Model (food category)			
	Food additive	Use result (typical level)	Presence on Label (onLabel)
Product 1	Aspartame	40	Yes, present on the label
	Citric acid	15	Yes, present on the label
Product 2	Aspartame	52	Yes, present on the label
	Citric acid	0	No, not present on the label

Specific products that don't contain the same FA/FF as the ones in the same food category (e.g. soft drinks)

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PRESENCE DATA ALONE

- **Positive presence data alone** are not accepted because these data are not be useful for exposure assessment (always linked to an analytical result/use levels)

- However, **negative presence data alone** can be useful to refine dietary exposure:
  - To identify the FA/FF nonuse in particular food within a food category

NEGATIVE PRESENCE (NOT PRESENT ON LABEL) data model: to give the DP the possibility to provide negative presence data alone

This model was detached from the use levels data model due to technical reasons (business rules)

EFSA ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

- Assessment of all your comments by EFSA

- Guidance will be drafted considering Industry and MS comments

- Draft guidance will be published on Teams by the end of February

  (two weeks for final comments)

- Final data models by the 1ˢᵗ of April 2024 → **2025 Pilot data collection**

There is always room for discussion and improvement

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