

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES
PAPER FOR INFORMATION**

EU UPDATE

This paper provides Members with an update on novel food applications under regulation (EC) No 258/97 and other EU issues that are relevant to the work of the Committee.

Novel Food applications

(a) isomaltulose

(b) lycopene from *Blakeslea trispora*

1. The UK's initial assessment reports on these two applications, based on the Committee's opinions, were distributed to the relevant bodies in the other member states in April for them to provide comments and/or reasoned objections. The responses from the other member states have been collated by the Commission and sent to the relevant applicants, who will respond to the points that have been raised. The next steps for proceeding with these applicants will be discussed at a meeting of the member states in early September.

(c) chia seed

2. Similarly, the UK's assessment of this application was distributed in June and the deadline for comments or objections from other member states is 13 August. This application will also be discussed by member states' representatives in early September.

(d) NK603 maize

3. The authorisation of products derived from this line of herbicide tolerant maize was referred to the Council of the EU in July. The Council has 3 months in which to achieve the necessary majority vote, either in favour of the authorisation or against it. If the Council fails to reach a conclusion, the final decision will be automatically delegated to the Commission.

Implementation of EC Regulations 1829/2003 (on GM food and feed) and 1830/2003 (on traceability and labelling)

4. These Council regulations came into effect in all EU member states on 18 April 2004. The Food Standards Agency and Defra issued a joint consultation paper on technical issues related to the implementation of these regulations in England (similar consultations are being conducted in other part of the UK). This consultation closed on 25 June and the responses are being analysed.
5. The national regulations that are necessary for proper administration and enforcement of the EU Regulation will be introduced in the near future, accompanied by publication of a Regulatory Impact Assessment that evaluates

the costs and benefits of the legislation. Guidance notes, intended to provide informal, non-statutory guidance for operators (to be read in conjunction with the appropriate legislation) will be issued later in the year.

European Food Safety Authority

6. EFSA has continued to hold further meetings of its scientific panels. The published minutes of two meetings of the GMO Panel (the Panel's 9th and 10th meetings, both held in April) are attached at annex A.
7. The Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies has not finalised any recent opinions on (non-GM) novel foods, although it is currently considering issues raised by member states in relation to applications on diacylglycerol-rich oil (DAG-oil; Enova® oil) and on betaine.

Secretariat

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