

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

**ASTAXANTHIN-RICH OLEORESIN FROM *Haematococcus pluvialis* algae**

**Issue**

Members are invited to consider the text of the draft opinion on substantial equivalence for an astaxanthin-rich oleoresin obtained from the dried biomass of *Haematococcus pluvialis* before it is issued for public comment. The oleoresin is produced by Cyanotech Corporation using an existing *H. pluvialis* astaxanthin-rich algal meal.

**Background**

1. The Committee initially considered the application made by Cyanotech Corporation for an opinion on substantial equivalence for their astaxanthin-rich extract (BioAstin®) compared with an existing *H. pluvialis* astaxanthin-rich algal meal (Astaxin™), in July 2006 (ACNFP/78/3). The Committee requested additional information from the applicant concerning the levels and proportions of free and esterified astaxanthin in the oleoresin compared to the algal meal, quality assurance procedures, the culture conditions, data showing the absence of cyanobacterial toxins and possible seasonal variations of the levels of other undesirable substances in the open pond culture systems.
2. At the September 2006 meeting, Members considered the answers provided by Cyanotech Corporation to these points (ACNFP/79/6). Members were generally satisfied with the applicant's response but noted that there appeared to be no routine scheme in place for the screening of cyanobacterial toxins. They indicated that the applicant should ensure that such testing is carried out periodically to confirm the effectiveness of production controls.
3. The Secretariat has drafted an opinion incorporating the points raised by the Committee on Cyanotech's application, at its July and September meetings (Annex A).

**Committee Action Required**

4. The Committee is asked whether it is content with the text of the draft opinion attached as Annex A.
5. If not, the Committee is asked what amendments should be made to this draft opinion.
6. If so, this draft opinion will be published via the FSA web-site for the usual 10-day public consultation. After the Committee has considered any comments that are received and its opinion is finalised, the final opinion will be forwarded to the applicant.

**Secretariat  
January 2007**

**Annexes attached**

**Annex A: Draft opinion (Restricted)**

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Draft opinion (Restricted)

Secretariat  
January 2007