

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES****D-TAGATOSE****Issue**

At the last meeting Members were asked to consider an application for the approval of D-tagatose as a novel food ingredient. As there was a delay in the meeting papers being circulated Members were given an additional period to comment on the dossier. Members are now asked for their comments on the draft initial opinion and whether they are content to recommend the authorisation of this novel ingredient.

**Background**

1. An application has been submitted by Bioresco, acting on behalf of Arla Food Ingredients, Denmark for authorisation of D-tagatose as a novel ingredient in the EU. The application was accepted by the UK Competent Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005. In accordance with Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 258/97, the UK has 3 months to prepare an initial assessment report on the above application. The initial assessment will then be circulated for review by the Competent Authorities in the other Member States (MS).
2. D-Tagatose is a monosaccharide, an enantiomer of D-fructose (inversion at C-4), which is not commonly found in food, although it is found at low levels in heat-treated dairy products such as sterilised and dried milk. D-tagatose has 75-92% the sweetness of sucrose and behaves like other sugars in terms of hygroscopicity, and stability under low pH and raised temperature (Appendix 1 p15). Its principal purpose is as a carbohydrate source that is non-cariogenic, and as a prebiotic.
3. This application was discussed at the last meeting and members were given an additional opportunity to submit comments by post. Members did not raise any specific concerns regarding this application and in view of this the Secretariat has drafted an initial opinion for comment.

**Committee Action required**

3. The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the draft initial opinion of the application attached at Appendix 1 and to indicate whether the information supplied by the applicant is sufficient to complete its assessment of this product. If not the Committee is asked what additional information is required.
4. Once the text is agreed, the draft initial opinion will be published via the website for a short period of public comment. The Committee's final initial assessment

will be forwarded to the Commission as the basis for the UK's formal assessment report on this application.

**Secretariat  
May 2005**

**Appendix attached:**

- **Appendix 1:** Draft initial opinion for consideration (restricted)