

09/02/2015

**European Union comments on  
Codex Circular Letter CL 2014/14-FA**

**Request for information on the availability of data to re-evaluate the six  
priority food colours**

*Mixed Competence.*

*Member States Vote.*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to provide the following general comments in reply to CL 2014/14-FA:

The EUMS take note that confirmation of data availability is a key criterion for allowing re-evaluation. In this regard the EUMS would like to refer to the re-evaluation programme of food additives approved in the European Union (EU). Five out of six colours mentioned in CL 2014/14-FA have been re-evaluated by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the scientific opinions are publicly available at EFSA's web sites (see Annex to these comments).

In the past in reply to the JECFA's call for data EFSA shared with the JECFA Secretariat the relevant and available data which were referenced in the EFSA's scientific opinions and/or that were received in response to EFSA's call for data (e.g. for INS 104 Quinoline yellow, INS 110 Sunset yellow and INS 124 Ponceau 4R). A similar approach is envisaged for the data available for the colours mentioned in CL 2014/14-FA provided the data sharing is accepted by the data owners.

Please find below the information on the state of play in the EU regarding the six colours mentioned in CL 2014/14-FA.

## **Annex**

### **State of play as regards the six priority food colours mentioned in CL 2014/14-FA**

**INS 129 Allura red** – permitted for use in the EU in several food categories in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008<sup>1</sup>. The safety has been re-evaluated in September 2009 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/1327.pdf>). In addition, EFSA issued a statement on Allura Red AC and other sulphonated mono azo dyes authorised as food and feed additives in May 2013 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/3234.pdf>). Finally, the refined exposure assessment for Allura red will be published in the coming weeks.

**INS 102 Tartrazine** - permitted for use in the EU in several food categories in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008. The safety has been re-evaluated in September 2009 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/1331.pdf>).

**INS 133 Brilliant blue** - permitted for use in the EU in several food categories in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008. The safety has been re-evaluated in October 2010 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/1853.pdf>).

**INS 127 Erythrosine** - permitted for use in the EU only in cocktail and candied cherries and bigareaux cherries in syrup and in cocktails in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008. The safety has been re-evaluated in October 2010 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/1854.pdf>).

**INS 143 Fast green FCF** – not permitted for use in the EU.

**INS 132 Indigotine** - permitted for use in the EU in several food categories in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008. The safety has been re-evaluated in July 2014 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/3768.pdf>).

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives