

Summary of the dossier: Cocoa pulp and products thereof

Applicant: Nestec York Ltd, 1 City Place, Gatwick, the United Kingdom

This is a notification for authorisation by Nestec York Ltd to place on the European Union (EU) cocoa pulp, and of products thereof, as a Traditional Food from a third country.

The notification is in line with requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2468. It also complies with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) guidance on the preparation and presentation of the notification and application for authorisation of traditional foods from third countries in the context of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

Cocoa pulp is obtained by splitting cocoa pods, followed by separation of the pulp from husks and beans; the pulp is then subject to pasteurisation and freezing. Cocoa pulp has been defined by Codex alimentarius (2013) as the “aqueous, mucilaginous and acidic substance in which the seeds [of cocoa] are embedded”. Its use in fruit juices is foreseen by Codex alimentarius (2005) and by national legislation in Brazil. Cocoa pulp has a composition of 83 – 90% water and 11 – 17% sugar; the main organic acid is citric acid (0.3 - 2.4%).

Cocoa pulp is to be used as a source of fruit pulp in all food applications where fruit pulp and its preparations are used, for the entire population. The intended use levels will be comparable to the levels of use of fruit pulp, and of its preparations, in various food applications.

Cocoa pulp has a long history of use in juices, fruit preparations such as jams and jellies, and a food ingredient in Brazil since at least the early 20th century. It has also been consumed in other cocoa-producing countries. The notification is supported by references documenting the use of cocoa pulp in various food applications; they demonstrate the long history of consumption of this traditional food and its safety in use. As a consequence, for the purposes of article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283, cocoa pulp, and the listed products thereof, do not, on the basis of the scientific evidence available, pose a safety risk to human health.