

Summary of the dossier

Applicant: Soloberry Ltd., Thames House, Thames Road, Crayford, Kent, United Kingdom

This notification has demonstrated the continuous use and consumption of haskap berries in Japan over past 25 years. It has also presented supporting information on continuous use and consumption in Canada over past 7 years. According to the information from Hokkaido Government Iburi General Subprefectural Bureau, the wild haskap plant's berries have been consumed by indigenous inhabitants of Japan from 1920s. The haskap berries have been consumed in Canada over the past 7 years and in Japan over the past 90 years in form of whole fresh fruit and in form of the processed products using haskap as an ingredient. Production fruit volumes and fruit shipment data were provided from Japanese governmental websites in order to demonstrate the extent of production and use. There has been production of 50-100 tons on average in Japan since 1980s, Currently, in Japan, there is non-integrated haskap industry at Hokkaido, which consists of the Co-operative groups, the traders, the processors, the wholesalers, and the retailers. It consists of 150 growers and 3 major processors which dominate the haskap industry in Hokkaido. They are: Mitsuboshi, based in Tomakomai processing approximately 40 tons of berries annually, Hori Confectionery, based in Bibai and Morimoto, based in Chitose. These three companies have their own confectionery stores and have placed on the market a list of confectionary and other products using haskap berries as an ingredient. Mitsuboshi stores are present in most of the large cities in Hokkaido. These three processors are the main players in the haskap industry chain of Hokkaido in Japan. Photos of the products using whole haskap berries were provided to support evidence of use. Additionally we have clearly shown that Japanese Agriculture at Hokkaido Island has been proactively involved in managing the cooperative system of growers, logistics and sellers of haskap berry for over 25 years. This evidence strongly suggests that haskap berries have been found to be safe for consumption in Japan.

This paper has also demonstrated that haskap berries are as safe to produce as other berries currently on the EU market. The current practices of control over residues and food safety are to industry and to major European retailers' standards on the recently created commercial farms in Poland and Canada. Pesticides and fungicides are used for spraying plants and fruit against any pests and diseases on the recommendation of the external professional agronomy companies during growing on the farms and according with the local and EU legislation. Using fungicides and pesticides carries a risk of residues exceeding the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) allowed in the EU, if the spraying good agricultural practice or the recommended by pesticide manufacturers harvest intervals are not adhered to. In order for the growers to follow good agricultural practice, they work towards and obtain the internationally recognised standard and certificate Global Gap (Global Good Agricultural Practice). Additionally, Soloberry Ltd also carries out a set of residue analysis in the accredited laboratories for pesticides, microbiological, heavy metals, viruses and radioactivity to ensure the legality of the product purchased and supplied to the final customer in Canada. This was supported in this paper by demonstrating the residue analysis results.

Finally, the section about the composition data of haskap berries has demonstrated a list of compounds, which may potentially have rather positive effect on human health. For example, haskap berries have very high content of vitamin C. The conditions of use as a whole berry within the industry standards on handling, storage temperature management do not pose any risks to human health. No data on negative effect from consumption of haskap berries was found during the desk research and observations of very experienced researchers conducting research on consumption of haskap powder did not observe any allergenic or toxic effects after

observing a sample of people taking part in the experiment at the Reading University in the UK. Therefore, Soloberry Ltd would like to request that haskap berries are classified and approved as Traditional food under Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 in order for this company to be able to place the berries on the market in whole fresh and frozen berry form in the EU.