



ADOPTION OF ANNEX LISTS FOR AUTHORIZED FOOD ADDITIVES COMPLEMENTS NEW LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

No modifications for the use of Xanthan Gum and Gellan Gum in foods

Brussels, 18 November 2011

On 12 November, the legislative regime for the use of approved food additives was further complemented after publication in the Official Journal of the European Union of two Regulations adopting Annexes II and III. Authorized food additives are now included in one single Community list which provides details of their conditions of use per product category ("Annex II"). Moreover, a list of additives with conditions of use in the production of other additives and food enzymes has been established ("Annex III"). The current conditions of use for Xanthan Gum and Gellan Gum in foodstuffs are not subject to modification following the introduction of the new legislation. Both Annex II and Annex III shall apply from 2 December 2012.

Objectives of new legislation: harmonization, simplification, internal market and public health

The aim of the new legislation is to harmonize at Community level the use of food additives in foods, or in other additives or food enzymes. The adopted Annex lists II and III form integral part of Regulation 1333/2008 on food additives, which is in force since January 2009. This Regulation establishes the general Community framework, principles and objectives to which all specific legislation on additives refers. As a general principle it requires that the use of additives is safe, technologically justified, does not mislead the consumer and has advantages and benefits for the consumer. The new Annexes replace various Directives¹ and decisions concerning permitted food additives which formed a dispersed area of legislation.

The new legislative regime lays down rules on food additives used in foods with a view to ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market whilst ensuring a high level of protection of human health and a high level of consumer protection, including the protection of consumer interests and fair practices in the food trade. Furthermore it simplifies the approval procedure for food additives.

¹ Directives 94/35/EC, 94/36/EC and 95/2/EC



Application Xanthan Gum and Gellan Gum: same conditions of use will apply

Biopolymer International welcomes the adoption of the new Annex lists. **Most importantly, the Annex II list will not impose modifications to the current use of Xanthan Gum and Gellan Gum in the food processing industry in the EU.** Also Annex III for the first time authorizes the use of Xanthan Gum and Gellan Gum in the production of food enzymes, which is clearly advantageous. A further more general benefit is the increased transparency, simplification and coherency of EU legislation.

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