

Consultation request for the determination of the novel food status ARTICLE 4 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Consultation request to determine the novel food status of the *Chlorella* sp. (*Auxenochlorella protothecoides*, *Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa*, *Chlorella sorokiniana*, *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Jaagichlorella luteoviridis*, *Parachlorella kessleri*)

Recipient Member State: Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Safety Department

Date: 04/03/2022

Name and description of the novel food:

Chlorella sp. consists one or more species from this list of the species: *Auxenochlorella protothecoides*, *Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa*, *Chlorella sorokiniana*, *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Jaagichlorella luteoviridis*, *Parachlorella kessleri*

Dried biomass of unicellular microscopic freshwater algae of the genus *Chlorella*, referred to as *Chlorella* sp. or Chlorela, obtained by cultivation in an autotrophic (with the presence of light), heterotrophic (without the presence of light in fermenters) or mixotrophic combination of the two previous modes) mode. The dried biomass is in the form of a fine powder which is used as a food supplement in form of capsules, tablets etc. or lyophilized *Chlorella* extract. The dried biomass can be used as a food material in food industry (as a food component), e.g. in bakery products, pasta, beverages. The food does not contain nanomaterials.

Novel food status

Chlorella sp. (*Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa*, *Chlorella sorokiniana*, *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Jaagichlorella luteoviridis*, *Parachlorella kessleri*, *Auxenochlorella protothecoides*) is considered as **not novel food**.

Novel food category

Not applicable

Reason statement:

Products containing biomass of *Chlorella* are available on the Union market in a wide range. Some producers designate the product by the name of the species of the microalga, frequently as *Chlorella vulgaris*, or *Chlorella* or *Chlorella* sp. Taxonomy of *Chlorella* sp. is quite problematic because genetic analyses are not straightforward in determining of the specific species of the genus *Chlorella*. With reference to the French decision and official information, as well as detailed knowledge of the taxonomy of *Chlorella* supported by genetic analysis, we consider the species of *Chlorella* sp. (see above) as a traditional food which has the history of consumption as a food or food supplement in the EU before 15th May 1997.

Conclusion:

Based on the data received, history of consumption (HOC) in the European Union's countries before 15th May 1997, and on the clarification of taxonomy of *Chlorella sp.*, *Chlorella sp.* (*Auxenochlorella protothecoides*, *Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa*, *Chlorella sorokiniana*, *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Jaagichlorella luteoviridis*, *Parachlorella kessleri*) do not fall under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.