

ARTICLE 4 REQUEST

Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Consultation request to determine the status of UV-treated skimmed milk pursuant to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods

Recipient Member State: Denmark, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA).

Validation Date: 13th June 2024

Name and description of the novel food:

The request concerns UV-treated skimmed milk with less than 0,5% fat and no significant levels of vitamin D. The purpose of the UV treatment is to preserve the initial microbial conditions of the milk by reducing the level of heat resistant spoilage organisms and minimizing the risk of pathogens.

Status – Not novel food

Novel food category

“Food resulting from a new production process not used for food production in the Union before 15 May 1997, resulting in significant changes in the composition or structure of the food affecting its nutritional value, metabolism or the level of undesirable substances” [article 3(2)(a)(vii)].

Reasons statement

UV-treatment is applied with the aim of preserving the initial microbial conditions of skimmed milk by reducing the level of heat resistant spoilage organisms and minimizing the risk of pathogens.

The creation of Vitamin D is according to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) the only significant change resulting from the UV-treatment of milk.

From the evaluation of the analyses and references included in the dossier, the UV-treatment of milk with a fat content of less than 0,5% gives rise to formation of vitamin D in small but varying amounts depending on the intensity of UV-light and fat content of the milk.

UV-treated milk with a fat content below 0,5%, where the level of vitamin D is not significantly increased compared to the non-UV-treated skimmed milk is not a novel food. According to Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 the significant level of vitamin D in beverages is 0,375 ug/100g.

National regulation regarding UV-treatment of food may restrict the use in some EU Member States, meaning that the use of the UV-treatment for the described purpose needs to be authorized by the responsible national authority.

Conclusion

UV-treated skimmed milk with less than 0,375 ug/100g vitamin D is not novel foods.