

Application for consultation to determine the status of a novel food, pursuant to Article 4(2) of the above Regulation

A plant protein concentrate that is fermented with the mycelium of shiitake (*Lentinus edodes*)

Recipient Member State: Belgium Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment

Justification

The Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment has examined the request for determination of novel food status of the following ingredient:

A plant protein concentrate that is fermented with the mycelium of shiitake (*Lentinus edodes*)

In the request, the mycelium of shiitake (*Lentinus edodes*) is presented as a processing aid. However, as the mycelium is added to the product and not removed, it must be regarded as an ingredient of the product.

No known evidence was provided in the request that the mycelium of shiitake (*Lentinus edodes*) was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before 15 May 1997, and no Member State nor the Commission had knowledge of a significant history of consumption.

Therefore, provided that the mycelium of *Lentinula edodes* does not fall under Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008 or Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, we conclude that the ingredient described above must be regarded as a novel food as defined in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283, and falls under the following category:

- (ii) food consisting of, isolated from or produced from microorganisms, fungi or algae;

The novel food status of the other ingredients and of the process applied has not been evaluated.