

Covid-19 crisis and food DG SANTE initiatives



**Advisory Group of the Food Chain
8 May 2020**



European
Commission

Food safety

- Questions and answers produced and published in all EU languages
- Aimed at reassuring citizens as well as guiding small operators of the food chain
- Complementing national or international recommendations, which are cross-referred to
- Prepared in consultation with Member States and the AGFC
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/crisis_preparedness_en

The screenshot shows the European Commission website's 'Food Safety' page. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with 'Home > Food, farming, fisheries > Food Safety >'. Below the navigation, there is a 'Food' category header. The main content area features a 'CORONAVIRUS COVID-19' section with a microscopic image of the virus and a 'Q&A: COVID-19 and food safety' article dated 08/04/2020. To the right, there is a 'COMMISSIONER STELLA KYRIAKIDES HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY' section with a photo of Commissioner Kyriakides and a 'BREXIT Notices' section with a Union Jack graphic. Below these, there is a 'TWITTER FEEDS' section showing a tweet from @EU_FoodSafety. At the bottom, there is a 'FOOD SAFETY: OVERVIEW' section with a grid of buttons for 'RASFF - FOOD & FEED SAFETY ALERTS', 'AGRI-FOOD FRAUD', 'LABELLING AND NUTRITION', 'FOOD IMPROVEMENT AGENTS', 'BIOLOGICAL SAFETY', and 'NOVEL FOOD'.



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The labelling of food

Original Label		New Label	
Nutrition Facts Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g) Servings Per Container About 8		Nutrition Facts 8 servings per container Serving size 2/3 cup (55g)	
Amount Per Serving		Amount per serving	
Calories 230	Calories from Fat 72	Calories 230	
% Daily Value*		% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g	12%	Total Fat 8g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%	Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g		Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%	Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%	Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	12%		
Dietary Fiber 4g	16%		

- Free movement of goods affected
- Impact on supply of raw materials/ ingredients/packaging materials
- Call for temporary contingency exemption on EU food labelling rules
- National measures by Member States
 - **National guidelines**
 - **Case-by-case approaches providing flexibility**
- The Commission acknowledged to Member States the need for flexibility on some food labelling provisions, provided that
 - **They be induced by the current situation**
 - **They be thus temporary and justified.**
 - **They be taken by the competent authorities on a case-by-case basis**
 - **Food safety is NOT jeopardised**
 - **Information on allergens be ALWAYS available**
- The Commission does not intend to postpone the application of Reg (EU) 2018/775 on origin indication of primary ingredients



Food losses / food waste

- Newsletter of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
- **First edition (March 2020) dedicated to actions by Platform members (Member States, food business operators or food banks and other NGOs) to prevent food waste during the COVID-19 crisis**
- Disseminated to Platform members and their networks, as well as to international partners (e.g. FAO Save Food, WRI Champions 12.3)
- The subscription link is published on the European Commission's Food waste website and DG SANTE's e-news page to reach a wider group of interested stakeholders

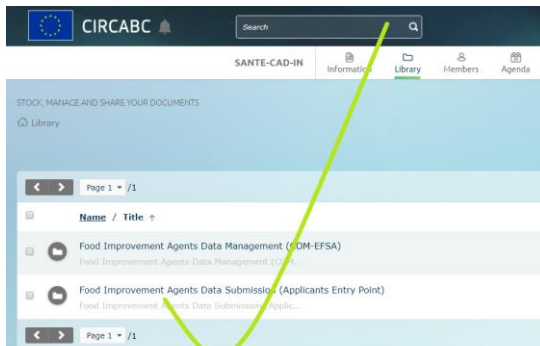


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Administrative facilitation for data submission for FA, FE and FF



- Online tool **CIRCABC Sante-Cad-In** developed for business continuity.
- Online data submission / registration for additives, enzymes and flavourings. When appropriate, the data is shared with EFSA.
- The system successfully tested with 1 additive and 1 enzyme application already received.
- More information on: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_improvement_agents_en



Limit impact on international trade

- *EU initiative to use TRACES and recommend acceptance of scanned copies of certificates*
 - **Letters to Ambassadors of countries exporting to the EU (20 March and 24 March)**
- *Monitoring of trade impacts*
 - **Information collected on major trade partners (approx. 50 third countries)**
 - **Informal exchanges with major food exporters on identified issues**



Risk-based adaptation of official controls

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/466
- More details to follow in subsequent presentation in the meeting.