

Application to determine novel food status under Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.

Receiving Member State: SPANISH FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION AGENCY O.A (AESAN O.A)

Name and description of the food:

The food for which the opinion is sought are the fruits of the plant species *Zantoxylum piperitum*, also known as Japanese pepper or sanshō pepper

How the food is intended to be used: to be used as species or seasoning.

Status: Not novel

Category (When applicable): Not applicable

Justification:

The applicant provides evidence of consumption history in the EU before 15 May 1997.

Spain, after consulting the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, it has been concluded that, at national level, the fruits of this plant species are considered as food, specifically as a spice or condiment prior to 15/05/1997.

During the procedure, Member States and the European Commission have been consulted, confirming its use also in food supplements.

Conclusion:

Fruits of the plant species *Zantoxylum piperitum* has a history of consumption as foodstuff before 15/05/97 in the European Union, therefore not falling within the scope of Regulation 2015/2283 on novel foods.