

Helen Stubbs  
Product Stewardship Manager Dow Europe GmbH  
Bachtobelstrasse 3  
8810 Horgen  
Switzerland  
*sent by email*

10 October 2013

## **METHYLCELLULOSE AS A NOVEL FOOD INGREDIENT**

Dear Dr Stubbs

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of your application made to the UK for the pre-market assessment of Methylcellulose in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Novel Food Regulation (Regulation (EC) 258/97).

1. An application was accepted by the Food Standards Agency on 16 April 2012 from Dow Wolff Cellulosics for the authorisation of Methylcellulose as a novel ingredient in the EU.
2. On 11 October 2012 the Food Standards Agency issued its initial assessment report, having obtained advice from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP), the independent Committee that advises the Agency on all novel food issues. This report concluded that Methylcellulose meets the criteria for acceptance as a novel food, as defined in Article 3(1) of the Regulation.
3. The Commission forwarded the initial assessment report to all Member States on 31 January 2013 and no reasoned objections were presented by the Commission or the member states within the 60 day period laid down in Article 6(4) of Regulation (EC) 258/97.
4. Comments were made by Finland, Poland, Spain, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece and Ireland and you may wish to respond to these comments on a bilateral basis.
5. Therefore, on the basis of the initial assessment report, it is established that Dow Wolff Cellulosics' Methylcellulose complies with the criteria

laid down in Article 3(1) of Regulation 258/97 when placed on the market in accordance with the conclusions of the initial assessment report, namely:

I. Methylcellulose may be used in edible ices, flavoured drinks, flavoured or unflavoured fermented milk products, cold desserts (dairy, fat, fruit, cereal, egg-based products), fruit preparations (pulpes, purees or compotes), soups and broths at a use level of up to 2%.

II. Methylcellulose is not to be used in foods specially prepared for young children.

6. Methylcellulose covered by this authorisation must comply with specifications for the food additive use of Methylcellulose (E461), as set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 231/2012 of 9 March 2012 laying down specifications for food additives listed in Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
7. This letter will be published on the Food Standards Agency website and a copy will be forwarded to the Commission for transmission to all other Member States and general publication.

Yours sincerely,  
*(By email only)*

Dr Manisha Upadhyay  
Novel Foods Unit,  
Chemical Safety Division

Cc: (DG SANCO)