

Ms Concepción Ortolá Santacreu
Herba RiceMills, SLU
Polígono Industrial Virgen de los Dolores C/ 209-215
46113 Moncada
Valencia (Spain)

Subject: Authorisation to extend the use of chia seed (Salvia hispanica) in sterilised ready meals based on cereal grains, pseudocereal grains and/or pulses

Madrid, 2 November 2017

Dear Ms Ortolá,

We are writing to you in connection with the application to extend the use of chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) at a level equal to or lower than 5 % in sterilised ready meals based on cereal grains, pseudocereal grains and/or pulses which was submitted on behalf of Herba RiceMills, SLU of Spain pursuant to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 258/97 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients.

Herba RiceMills, SLU filed the said application with AECOSAN on 19 April 2017.

On 27 June 2017, following its approval by AECOSAN's Scientific Committee on 22 June 2017, AECOSAN sent the initial assessment report to the European Commission. That report concluded that the proposed extension of use for the chia seed met the criteria for acceptance as a novel food ingredient, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3(1) of the above-mentioned Regulation.

On 20 July 2017, the Commission sent the initial assessment report to all the Member States. Observations were received from the United Kingdom and Germany; these were contested by the company.

As neither the Commission nor any of the Member States raised objections to the proposed extension of use within the 60-day period laid down for this purpose, it is established that the extension of use for chia seed at a level equal to or lower than 5% in sterilised ready meals based on pulses, cereal grains, and/or pseudocereal grains, fulfils the criteria set out in Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 258/97.

The product placed on the market must correspond to the product assessed and comply with the conditions set out in Annexes I, II and III to this letter and with the relevant legislation.

Accordingly, Herba RiceMills, SLU may place chia seed on the market for the uses indicated in the annex to this letter and in accordance with the conditions set out therein.

This letter is being sent to the Commission for forwarding to all the other Member States and for general publication, as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa Robledo
Executive Director

ANNEX I

SPECIFICATIONS, CHIA SEED (*SALVIA HISPANICA*)

(Commission Decision 2009/827/EC)

Description

Chia (*Salvia hispanica*) is a summer herbaceous plant of the Labiatae family. After harvesting, the seed is cleaned mechanically. The flowers, leaves and other plant parts are removed.

Composition of chia seed

| | |
|--|---------|
| Dry matter | 91-96 % |
| Protein | 20-22 % |
| Fats | 30-35 % |
| Carbohydrates | 25-41 % |
| Raw fibre (*) | 18-30 % |
| Ash | 4-6 % |
| (*) Raw fibre is the part of the fibre made up mainly of cellulose, pentosans and indigestible lignin. | |

ANNEX II

USES OF CHIA SEED (*SALVIA HISPANICA*)

| Food category | Maximum level of use |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Sterilised ready meals based on cereal grains, pseudocereal grains and/or pulses | No more than 5 % |

ANNEX III

LABELLING OF FOODS CONTAINING CHIA SEED (*SALVIA HISPANICA*)

The designation of the novel food ingredient authorised by this Decision on the labelling of the foodstuff containing it shall be 'Chia (*Salvia hispanica*) seeds' (Commission Decision 2009/827/EC)