



Re-evaluation of food colours: call for data

Parma, 7 December 2006

Within the framework of the systematic re-evaluation of all food colours authorised under the EU legislation, the EFSA's Scientific Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food (AFC Panel) is calling for data (cf. minutes of the 19th plenary meeting of the AFC Panel).

The AFC Panel would appreciate to receive data or information on when it might be available by 31 March 2007 to the following e-mail address: foodcolours@efsa.europa.eu.

In a first phase, information submitted to EFSA should preferably be in the form of lists of available documents with comments on their actual content and reference when applicable.

In a second phase, EFSA will ask for selected documents from the submitted lists.

As far as possible, the submission of data to EFSA should be done in a concerted manner between the stakeholders interested in the same substance.

For specific substances, the data should preferably be submitted in separate messages clearly indicating the name and E-number of the colour.

This call for data relates to the following:

1. Information concerning the availability of original study reports as evaluated by the SCF and JECFA.
2. Information on studies, concerning the safety of the colours, not forming part of the opinions of the SCF and JECFA; but only with respect to either data not published or data published in the open literature that would not be picked up by the most common search engines.
3. Information on the present use and use patterns of the food colours, including lakes (which food categories and subcategories, proportion of foods within categories/subcategories in which it is used, normal use levels as well as any maximum use levels, especially for those uses which are only limited by *quantum satis* (q.s.)).
4. Information on production methods (general description).
5. Information on the purity of colours currently in use (percentage of main content as well as impurities - special attention should be given to the content of aromatic amines when relevant (a mere reference to present specifications in the Directive is of no relevance)); this should also include information on particle size where relevant; also information on the content of aluminium (total as well as free and bound) in aluminium lakes is needed.
6. Information on available analytical methods for determination in food.