

EU Novel Food status Catalogue

Communication to the Members

With this communication, the associations [IPA Europe](#) and [EFFCA](#) would like to provide updated information regarding the revised version of the Novel Food Catalogue published by the European Commission on November 16, 2023.

Brussels, 19th March 2024

The Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on Novel Foods (NFR) in the EU stipulates that any food not significantly consumed by humans within the Union before May 15, 1997, is considered a Novel Food, necessitating pre-market approval before being placed on the market. The Novel Food definition explicitly encompasses "food consisting of, isolated from, or produced from microorganisms, fungi, or algae." Strains derived from well-known pre-1997 species of food cultures, including probiotics, are not regarded as Novel Food. To address this, the food culture industry has developed a position regarding the classification of a food culture as Novel Food in the EU, which was shared with the European Commission, DG Sante (*enclosed is the IPA EU and EFFCA's position of July 2018*).

What is the Novel Food Catalogue? The Novel Food Catalogue was established by the European Commission to provide clarity on the status of a food or food ingredient based on information provided by the EU Member States. It includes decisions from European Member State authorities on the novel food status of food ingredients. The Catalogue is non-exhaustive and serves as guidance on whether a product requires authorization under the NFR. It also indicates foods that are not novel when used in food supplements. It should be noted that non-novel food status does not automatically mean that the food is accepted for use in all Member States. This will depend on national legislation, and it should be verified if any further restrictions of use exist.

The new version published in November 2023 updates the list of the [Novel Food Catalogue](#) and their status regarding legislation, and introduces new features.

The Catalogue should not be considered a comprehensive or definitive list of non-novel species. Operators and national authorities can now utilize the non-Novel Food status of the microorganisms added to the Union catalogue to assert their use in products. However, it should be noted that this should not be considered a comprehensive or definitive list of non-novel species.

This is explicitly stated on the [European Commission introductory page](#), which clarifies, among other things, that the Novel Food Catalogue is "a non-binding tool that lists products of animal and plant origin, algal species, food cultures, and other substances subject to the Novel Food Regulation, based on information provided by the EU Member States," and that "It is a non-exhaustive list..."

How to amend the Catalogue? The Commission updates the Catalogue as EU countries submit new information. The Catalogue is regularly updated based on new information.

It has no legal power but serves as a useful tool for verifying a product's status. Food business operators can submit information to the national authorities of the respective EU country for verification, e.g., the history of significant consumption of a food or food ingredient before May 15, 1997, in the EU.

In Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on Novel Foods, the procedure of Article 4, where food business operators are required to consult national authorities if they are unsure whether a food intended for the market falls within the scope of the NRF, is often used for further updating the Catalogue.

In conclusion. The associations IPA Europe and EFFCA are evaluating the current list and will engage with the European Commission on the possibility of integrating the list of probiotic microorganisms and food cultures "traditionally used" that are missing.

If you need further clarification on any of the points mentioned above, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



The International Probiotics Association - Europe is a non-profit association based in Brussels. It represents the interests of the European Probiotic Industry in discussions with European Institutions, the European Food and Safety Authority (EFSA), national authorities and international institutions. The association aims to consolidate the probiotic category and enhance EU competitiveness. IPA Europe serves as the European chapter of IPA, representing together a platform of over 100 member companies across 29 countries.

Contact: Rosanna Pecere, Executive Director

r.pecere@ipaeurope.org

The European Food & Feed Cultures Association (EFFCA) is an European association representing manufacturers of microbial culture. EFFCA's aims to enhance public knowledge of the contribution the use of microbial cultures makes within the food chain through accurate, fair and scientifically-based information, while discouraging any inappropriate promotion or misuse.

Contact: Jakub Rusek, PhD – Secretary General

JRusek@kellencompany.com