To: Interested Parties

By Email

12 March 2014

Dear Interested Parties

**Raspberry ketones**

Further to our letter dated 24 October 2013, I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the Agency’s request for information to demonstrate a history of consumption of raspberry ketones as a foodstuff in the EU before 15 May 1997.

We received and reviewed information from a small number of interested parties. We have confirmed that some raspberry fruit extracts, which may or not be marketed as “raspberry ketones”, are outside the definition of a novel food, based on conclusions reached in other EU Member States. This is limited to extracts prepared using water or 20% ethanol (1:4 ethanol:water). These extracts therefore do not require authorisation as novel foods.

We have not received any other information that provides evidence of a history of significant consumption of raspberry ketones prior to 15 May 1997. We therefore remain of the view that raspberry ketones, other than the extracts mentioned above, are novel and fall within the scope of the EU legislation on novel foods.
Under Regulation (EC) 258/97, novel foods and food ingredients may only be legally marketed in the EU if they have been evaluated and authorised under the procedures defined in the regulation, raspberry ketones have not undergone this process. Any companies who wish to market a novel food in the EU will need to gain an EU authorisation under Regulation (EC) 258/97. Such an authorisation would require the submission of a dossier to one of the 28 EU member states, demonstrating that the product a) does not present a risk to the consumer; b) does not mislead the consumer; and c) is not nutritionally disadvantageous compared with other foods that it might replace in the diet.

Further information on submitting a dossier to the UK can be obtained from the novel foods webpages on the Agency’s website http://www.food.gov.uk/policy-advice/novel/

This advice does not apply to the use of the chemical substance “Raspberry ketone” (4-(p-hydroxyphenyl)butan-2-one) as a flavouring. This compound is a permitted flavouring substance in the EU and small amounts of raspberry ketone can be used as a flavouring, in compliance with the EU Flavourings Regulation (1334/2008/EC). If used for any other purpose it would have to comply with the novel foods regulation.


This letter is being copied to UK enforcement bodies so that they can take appropriate action when unauthorised novel foods are found on the market.

Yours sincerely,

(By email only)
Dr Manisha Upadhyay

Novel Foods Unit