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Notice of Modification to the *List of Permitted Sweeteners* to Enable the Use of Steviol Glycosides as a Sweetener in Nutritional Supplement Bars

Notice of Modification – *Lists of Permitted Food Additives*

Reference Number: [NOM/ADM-0078]

August 23, 2016

Bureau of Chemical Safety
Food Directorate
Health Products and Food Branch



Canada 

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Summary

Food additives are regulated in Canada under [Marketing Authorizations](#) (MAs) issued by the Minister of Health and the *Food and Drug Regulations*. Approved food additives and their permitted conditions of use are set out in the [Lists of Permitted Food Additives](#) that are incorporated by reference in the MAs and published on Health Canada’s website. A petitioner can request that Health Canada approve a new additive or a new condition of use for an already approved food additive by filing a food additive submission with the Department’s Food Directorate. Health Canada uses this premarket approval process to determine whether the scientific data support the safety of food additives when used under specified conditions in foods sold in Canada.

Health Canada received a food additive submission seeking approval for the use of steviol glycosides as a sweetener in nutritional supplement bars at a maximum level of use of 0.02% (calculated as steviol equivalents).

Canada already permits steviol glycosides to be used as a sweetener in various foods, including meal replacement bars at a maximum level of 0.02% (calculated as steviol equivalents). Although meal replacement bars may be similar to nutritional supplement bars, they are regulated as different foods, being subject to separate nutritional requirements set out in Part B, Division 24 of the *Food and Drug Regulations* (FDR). Consequently, a new entry in the [List of Permitted Sweeteners](#) is required to permit the use of steviol glycosides in nutritional supplement bars.

The use of steviol glycosides in nutritional supplement bars, at the same maximum level that is already permitted in meal replacement bars (0.02% calculated as steviol equivalents), is supported by the results of Health Canada’s evaluation of available scientific data. Therefore, Health Canada has modified the *List of Permitted Sweeteners* to extend the use of steviol glycosides by adding “Nutritional supplement bars” to column 2 of subitem S.1.2(8) as follows:

Modifications to the *List of Permitted Sweeteners*

Item No.	Column 1 Additive	Column 2 Permitted in or upon	Column 3 Maximum Level of Use and Other Conditions
S.1.2	Steviol glycosides (One or any combination of Stevioside, Rebaudioside A, Rebaudioside B, Rebaudioside C, Rebaudioside D,	(8) Meal replacement bars; Nutritional supplement bars	(8) 0.02% (calculated as steviol equivalents)

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	Rebaudioside F, Rebaudioside M, Dulcoside A, Rubusoside, and Steviolbioside, such that the total steviol glycosides content is not less than 95%)		
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Justification

Health Canada's Food Directorate assessed the safety of steviol glycosides for use as a sweetener in nutritional supplement bars. This use is similar to the already-permitted use in meal replacement bars and the assessment did not identify any toxicological or nutritional food safety concerns with respect to extending the permitted use of steviol glycosides to nutritional supplement bars.

Since the results of the assessment support the safety of steviol glycosides when used under the conditions of use set out in the table above, the Department has enabled the use of steviol glycosides as described in the table.

Implementation and Enforcement

The above modification came into force **August 23, 2016**, the day it was published in the [List of Permitted Sweeteners](#).

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for the enforcement of the *Food and Drugs Act* and its associated regulations with respect to foods.

Contact Information

Health Canada's Food Directorate is committed to reviewing any new scientific information on the safety in use of any food additive, including **steviol glycosides**. Anyone wishing to submit new scientific information on the use of this additive or to submit any inquiries may do so in writing, by regular mail or electronically. If you wish to contact the Food Directorate electronically, please use the words "**Steviol Glycosides in nutritional supplement bars**" in the subject line of your e-mail.

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