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Notice of Modification to the *List of Permitted Firming Agents* to More Clearly Identify Certain Canned Vegetables

Notice of Modification – Lists of Permitted Food Additives

Reference Number: NOM/ADM-0186

August 5, 2022



Summary

Food additives are regulated in Canada under [Marketing Authorizations](#) (MAs) issued by the Minister of Health and the *Food and Drug Regulations* (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 the Canada.ca website.

From time to time, Health Canada may make minor modifications to the [Lists of Permitted Food Additives](#), such as changes to correct errors, improve clarity, achieve consistency in terms used in the Lists, or to align the Lists with amendments of Part B of the *Food and Drug Regulations*. These minor changes are not intended to alter the permitted uses of food additives.

This Notice explains that the entries for calcium chloride; calcium citrate; calcium phosphate, monobasic; and calcium sulphate in the [List of Permitted Firming Agents](#) have been modified by replacing (1) the common name “Tomatoes” with the alternate common name for this standardized food, “Canned tomatoes”, and (2) replacing the food category term “Canned vegetables” with the term for each of the standardized and unstandardized food categories that compose “Canned vegetables”, namely “Canned (naming the vegetable)” and “Unstandardized canned vegetables”, respectively.

Minor Modifications to the [List of Permitted Firming Agents](#)

The Regulations set out the common name for many standardized foods by using boldface font for the name of the food in the provision in the Regulations that prescribes the standard (see the definition of “common name” in section B.01.001 of the Regulations). In this manner, the common name for canned tomatoes is either “Tomatoes” or “Canned Tomatoes” (B.11.005). The List indicates that calcium chloride; calcium citrate; calcium phosphate, monobasic; and calcium sulphate are permitted for use as firming agents in “Tomatoes”, meaning canned tomatoes. However, everyday use of the term “tomatoes” can simply mean more than one fresh unprocessed tomato fruit, and the food additive provision for each of these four firming agents in “Tomatoes” is not intended to permit these additives on fresh unprocessed tomato fruits.

To avoid this, the common name “Tomatoes” has been replaced with “Canned tomatoes”, which is the alternate common name for this food, in the list entries for these four firming agents.

The provisions for the use of calcium citrate; calcium phosphate, monobasic; and calcium sulphate in “Canned vegetables” are intended to include standardized canned vegetables, as well as unstandardized canned vegetables, such as canned mixed vegetables. To more clearly indicate this intent, and in the cases of calcium citrate and calcium phosphate, monobasic, to also maintain the maximum level of use intended for these firming agents in unstandardized canned vegetables (0.026% calculated as calcium), which is different than what is permitted for unstandardized foods in general (Good Manufacturing Practice), the food category “Canned vegetables” was divided into two subcategories that capture the intended foods, namely the standardized food category, “Canned (naming the vegetable)”, and the unstandardized food category, “Unstandardized canned vegetables”.

“Canned (naming the vegetable)” is the category for each kind of vegetable that is canned and subject to the standard set out in section B.11.002 of the Regulations. Canned peas were split from this listing of “canned (naming the vegetable)” in subitem C.1(8) since there is a higher maximum level of use for calcium chloride in canned peas than in canned (naming the vegetable). Therefore, the existing subitem C.1(8) was modified as shown below, and a separate entry was created for canned peas. The term “Canned (naming the vegetable)” already appears in several other Lists, including the [List of Permitted pH Adjusting Agents, Acid-Reacting Materials and Water Correcting Agents](#) and the [List of Permitted Preservatives](#). “Unstandardized canned

vegetables” is the category for all types of canned vegetables that do not have a standard in the Regulations. This category ensures that such types of foods are subject to the conditions of use specified for the previously-listed “canned vegetables” and not the conditions of use specified for all unstandardized foods.

Therefore, in the Column 2 entry of items C.1, C.2, C.5, and C.6 in the *List of Permitted Firming Agents*, Health Canada has replaced the term “Tomatoes” with “Canned tomatoes”, and in the Column 2 entry of items C.2, C.5, and C.6 replaced the terms “Canned vegetables” with “Canned (naming the vegetable)” and “Unstandardized canned vegetables”, as shown below (bold font not used in the List).

Modification to the *List of Permitted Firming Agents*

Item No.	Column 1 Additive	Column 2 Permitted in or Upon	Column 3 Maximum Level of Use and Other Conditions
C.1	Calcium Chloride	(8) Canned (naming the vegetable) except canned peas; Canned tomatoes	(8) 0.026% calculated as calcium
		(12) Canned peas	(12) 0.035% calculated as calcium
C.2	Calcium Citrate	(1) Canned (naming the vegetable); Canned tomatoes; Unstandardized canned vegetables	(1) 0.026% calculated as calcium
C.5	Calcium Phosphate, monobasic	(1) Canned (naming the vegetable); Canned tomatoes; Unstandardized canned vegetables	(1) 0.026% calculated as calcium
C.6	Calcium Sulphate	(1) Canned (naming the vegetable); Canned tomatoes; Unstandardized canned vegetables	(1) 0.026% calculated as calcium

Editorial Modifications

Minor grammatical corrections were also made in the French version of the List. The word “calculé” was replaced with “calculée” in column 3 for subitems no. C.1(1), no. C.1(8), no. C.1(10), no. C.1(11), no. C.2(1), no. C.2(2), no. C.2(4), no. C.3A(2), no. C.5(1), no. C.5(2), no. C.5(4), no. C.6(1), no. C.6(2), no. C.6(3) and no. P.1(3). The word “normalises” was replaced by “normalisés” in column 2 for subitem no. C.1(9).

Rationale

Health Canada has modified the entries for calcium chloride; calcium citrate; calcium phosphate, monobasic; and calcium sulphate in the *List of Permitted Firming Agents* by replacing the terms for certain canned foods with other terms that more clearly indicate the intended permitted use of these firming agents in these

foods. Also, some minor grammatical corrections have been made to the French version of the List. There are no food safety implications associated with these changes.

Implementation and Enforcement

The above modifications came into force **August 5, 2022**, the day they were published in the [*List of Permitted Firming Agents*](#).

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

Anyone wishing to enquire about or provide feedback on the changes described in this Notice of Modification may do so in writing, by regular mail, or electronically. If you wish to contact the Food Directorate electronically, please use the words "**firming agents (NOM-0186)**" in the subject line of your e-mail.

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