



Classification of Urolithin A as a novel food

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An application was submitted to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO for classification of Urolithin A as a novel food.

The food in question is the chemical substance 3,8-dihydroxy-6H-dibenzo(b,d)pyran-6-one (Urolithin A) with the molecular formula $C_{13}H_8O_4$ (purity 99.9%). Urolithin A belongs to the class of organic compounds known as benzo-coumarins or dibenzo- α -pyrones and is not known to be found in any food source. Urolithin A is proposed to be used as an ingredient in e.g. instant hot breakfast cereals, cereal and protein bars, flavoured yogurts and yoghurt drinks and food supplements.

The FSVO examined the documents submitted and determined the novel food status of Urolithin A. The documents show that this food was not used for human consumption to a significant degree in either Switzerland or an EU Member State before 15 May 1997 and, in accordance with Article 15 para. 1 of the Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (FUAO; SR 817.02), therefore falls within the definition of a novel food, and in particular within the category:

“Foodstuffs with a new or specifically modified molecular structure, provided this structure was not used in foodstuffs or as food in Switzerland or in a Member State of the EU before 15 May 1997” (Art. 15 para.1 let. a FUAO).

Urolithin A is therefore subject to the authorisation requirement for novel foods under Article 17 FUAO.

