



Classification of «C60» (fullerene) as a novel food

Date: 29.10.2020

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) has received an application for «C60» fullerene to be classified as a novel food.

The foodstuff in question is the chemical substance (C₆₀-I_h)[5,6]fullerene (purity 99.9%). Fullerenes are hollow, closed (spherical) molecules made up of carbon atoms arranged into pentagon and hexagon shapes. The C60 fullerenes are football-shaped molecules consisting of 20 hexagons and 12 pentagons.

The documents show that «C60» was not used for human consumption (as a foodstuff) to a significant degree either in Switzerland or in any EU Member State before 15 May 1997 and falls within one of the categories in Art. 15 para. 1 of the Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (FSO; SR 817.02). It is intended to be used in dosed form in food supplements.

Based on the information submitted by the applicant, the FSVO's assessment is that «C60» fullerene falls within the definition of «novel food» according to Article 15 para. 1 letter h of the FSO:

«Foodstuff consisting of engineered nanomaterials»

It is therefore subject to the authorisation requirement under Article 17 para.1 of the FSO.

