



# Classification of synthetic L-alpha-glycerolphosphorylcholine (Alpha-GPC) as novel food

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Documentation has been submitted to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) with regard to the classification of the synthetically manufactured substance L-alpha-glycerolphosphorylcholine (Alpha-GPC) as a novel food.

This food is the chemical substance L-alpha-glycerolphosphorylcholine (Alpha-GPC, choline alposcerate) with the molecular formula  $C_8H_{20}NO_6P$  (purity: min. 99%). Alpha-GPC is a low-molecular-weight aqueous ester of choline and a component of membranes. It is found as a precursor of choline in the brain and the kidneys. L-Alpha-glycerolphosphorylcholine is also a natural constituent of various foods and breast milk. It is intended for use in non-alcoholic, flavoured beverages.

No evidence could be found that synthetically produced L-alpha-glycerolphosphorylcholine (Alpha-GPC) was used to a significant degree (as food) for human consumption in Switzerland and/or an EU Member State before 15 May 1997. On the basis of the submitted information, the FSVO considers that synthetically produced Alpha-GPC falls under the definition of «novel food» according to Article 15 para. 1 letter a of the Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (FSO; SR 817.02):

*“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”*

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

