

27 September 2024

Request to Food Industry for Use Level Data on certain Food Additives

Dear Stakeholders,

The principal function of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is to protect consumers' health and raise compliance through partnership, science and food law enforcement.

In accordance with Article 27 of [Regulation \(EC\) No 1333/2008](#) on food additives, Ireland, along with other Member States, has to maintain systems designed to monitor the consumption and use of food additives. These systems must be based on risk, and findings are reported to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

With this in mind, the European Commission recently published [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2023/965](#) to establish a consistent method for the collection of data and to determine the quantity of additives the population in each country is consuming in their diets.

To begin this process, a pilot programme of data collection is planned for the years 2024 and 2025. The pilot programme will collect data on a small number of additives in preparation for a larger monitoring program in future years. As part of this pilot programme, Ireland needs to collect use level data, which refers to the concentration of the food additive, reported by business operators, to be added to food.

For the year 2024, the pilot programme will involve the collection of use level data on the following three food additives, used as colours in food:

- Tartrazine (E 102)
- Ponceau 4R, Cochineal Red A (E 124)
- Green S (E 142).

For the year 2025, the pilot programme will involve the collection of use level data on the following two food additives:

- Sorbic acid – sorbates (E 200 – 202)
- BHT (E 321).

Collection of use level data

In order to help food businesses and to obtain use level data, the FSAI has developed an Excel template.

For the year 2024, the FSAI is requesting food businesses who use the above-mentioned food additives (i.e. E 102, E 124 and E 142) in their products (i.e. food products or additive mixtures) to complete this Excel template.

In completing the Excel template, the following should be noted by food businesses:

1. Instructions on completing the template are provided in the first worksheet of the Excel file.
2. The template itself is contained in the second worksheet of the Excel file.
3. Each field in this template is mandatory, with the exception of the manufacturer's name and contact details, and the brand name of the reported product. However, the FSAI kindly requests that this information is provided, to avoid duplication and in the event that clarifications are required.
4. The information collected in the template will be transmitted directly and confidentially to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

5. For some fields in the template, drop-down lists are provided to assist with the completion of the template.
6. The FSAI requests that detailed information is provided about the product to which the food additive is added. This will allow the FSAI to categorise the information in accordance with EFSA's reporting requirements.
7. Please note that the FSAI will not be collecting use level data for flavourings as part of this monitoring programme, as EFSA will be collecting this information directly from stakeholders.
8. The scope of this data collection includes products sold on the Irish market. Therefore, the scope extends to products manufactured outside of Ireland and sold on the Irish market, if it is feasible to obtain information on food additive use levels in such products.

Data protection

In completing the template, the FSAI requires you to fill in your name and address. This is to assist with the processing of the information. These details will not be shared with a third party. Any results shared therefore will be anonymised.

All information submitted will be held securely and in strictest confidence. Access is confined to those who require it. In providing this information, you are giving consent for it to be used for the purposes specified. Once this process has been completed, all data will be securely destroyed.

Further information about the FSAI and data protection may be found on the FSAI's website (www.fsai.ie) or you may contact the FSAI's Data Protection Officer (DPO) at DPO@fsai.ie.

Completed templates

Please send completed templates via email to additives@fsai.ie on or before **Friday the 8th November 2024**.

The FSAI would like to thank food industry stakeholders in advance for their cooperation and contribution to Ireland's efforts to fulfil the EU's monitoring recommendations on food additives set out in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/965.

If you have any questions, please contact additives@fsai.ie.

Kind regards,

Food Safety Authority of Ireland