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# TARTRAZINE

## WHAT IS TARTRAZINE?

Tartrazine is a synthetic lemon yellow azo dye, also known as FD+C Yellow No. 5. It is widely used as a colouring agent in food, personal care and cosmetic products, medications and other products.

## WHY IS IT AN ISSUE FOR THE INDUSTRY?

Tartrazine is an azo dye which has been shown to cause a reaction similar to an allergy in some individuals, although the mechanism has not been identified. Some publications identify tartrazine as a possible cause of hyperactivity in children, but results have been conflicting. Media—both print and social—have expressed concerns with this azo dye and would like it removed from the food supply.

## WHAT ARE THE CANADIAN REGULATIONS?

Tartrazine is permitted in bread, butter, flavoured milk, jam, jelly, and unstandardized foods along with a number of other products to a maximum of 300 ppm singly or in combination with other colours in accordance with section B.06.002 in the *Food and Drug Regulations*.

## WHAT ABOUT OTHER JURISDICTIONS?

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

FD&C Yellow No. 5 is permitted for use as a coloring agent in foods (including dietary supplements) in amounts consistent with good manufacturing practice. However, it may not be used to color foods for which standards of identity exist under section 401 of the act unless the color is authorized by such standards. Bread has a standard of identity and cannot have colour added; however other bakery products permit the use of tartrazine.

### EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY:

Identified as E102, tartrazine is permitted for use in a number of foods at varying levels from 50 ppm to 500 ppm depending on the product. They have identified an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) of 0-7.5 mg/kg bw/day and indicate a minor portion of the population may be sensitive to tartrazine. In

the United Kingdom it is widely used in many food products. Even though Europe permits its use, it is banned in Norway and Austria.

#### FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND:

Australia and New Zealand permit the use of tartrazine and similar to EFSA allow an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) of 0-7.5 mg/kg bw/day.