

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods – 52<sup>nd</sup> Teleconference  
Wednesday, 26 November 2014, 2.00pm – 3.00 pm (AEDST)  
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*Draft Outcome Notes*

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Item	Summary	Outcomes and Actions
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

**4.1 Diatomaceous Earth**

Members considered diatomaceous earth under Part 1 of the guidance tool. Members noted that diatomaceous earth is a permitted processing aid in Standard 1.3.3 of the Code. Diatomaceous earth is commonly used as a filtering aid and is not expected to be present in final food products when used in this context. Members noted there did not appear to be a history of use of diatomaceous earth as a food or food ingredient. Therefore, members considered that diatomaceous earth does meet the definition of non-traditional food.

Consideration under Part 2 was finalised out-of-session via email. Members noted at the meeting that there were no identified safety concerns associated with the consumption of diatomaceous earth. Diatomaceous earth is similar to silica, which has been assessed by JECFA, with no toxicological concern identified in human subjects fed multi-gram quantities for 12 weeks. Members also noted no toxicological concerns were identified in an EFSA opinion on insecticide use. Members questioned whether the filtering mechanism of diatomaceous earth could lead to the accumulation of toxins. It was noted that diatomaceous earth is a physical filter that uses particle size rather than any binding

Recommendation of the ACNF that diatomaceous earth does meet the definition of non-traditional food and that an assessment of public health and safety considerations is not required.

**Outcome:**  
FSANZ advised ISFR of ACNF recommendation. No comments were received. Enquirer has been advised of recommendation.

Item	Summary	Outcomes and Actions
	<p>mechanisms, to filter objects. It is therefore not likely that diatomaceous earth would bind toxins such as heavy metals. Members did however, note that diatomaceous earth used as a food ingredient should at least meet the specifications for identity and purity published by JECFA or the Food Chemicals Codex; and that the recommendation of the ACNF would be limited to diatomaceous earth that met these specifications (or specifications listed in other sources referenced in Standard 1.3.4 of the Code).</p> <p>Taking into account the above information, members did not identify any safety concerns associated with the consumption of diatomaceous earth as a food, provided it meets the relevant specifications. Therefore, members considered that an assessment of public health and safety considerations was not required for diatomaceous earth.</p>	
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