

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED] s 22  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: ACNF recommendation - Diatomaceous Earth [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Date: Tuesday, 23 December 2014 10:18:04 AM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Dear Committee Members

As you will recall, at the ACNF52 meeting we discussed Diatomaceous Earth, but did not provide a final recommendation. The ACNF agreed that Diatomaceous Earth meets the definition of 'non-traditional food', but requested FSANZ do some further investigation before providing a recommendation. FSANZ notes the following:

- Diatomaceous Earth acts as a filtering aid by physically filtering out larger particles, typically from beverages. This is akin to using a sieve and relying on the size of the holes to let fluid or smaller particles through while catching larger particles. Diatomaceous Earth does not bind materials (like heavy metals), which was a potential concern expressed at the ACNF52 meeting.
- Specifications for Diatomaceous Earth are set out in both JECFA and Food Chemicals Codex (FCC) publications. These specifications relate to use as a processing aid for use in food production, but could provide a level of control on the type, or quality, of Diatomaceous Earth offered for sale as a food.
- FSANZ has not identified any safety concerns associated with the consumption of Diatomaceous Earth. Indeed, EFSA's 2012 opinion (on Diatomaceous Earth as a processing aid) noted: "No dietary reference values were derived or considered not necessary due to the low toxicological concern of the substance by the oral route".

Based on the above, there does not appear to be a need for further assessment of public health and safety considerations relating to the consumption of Diatomaceous Earth. **If members agree with this consideration, the recommendation of the ACNF would be that Diatomaceous Earth is a 'non-traditional food', but not a 'novel food'**. FSANZ considers it would be beneficial to make reference to the existing JECFA and FCC specifications, noting that the recommendation of the ACNF relates only to Diatomaceous Earth that meets these specifications.

Could members please respond with their views on the following:

- whether you agree with the proposed recommendation above (including reference to the JECFA and FCC specifications in the record of views published on the FSANZ website);
- if you do not agree, what your remaining concerns are.

Please provide your views by COB Friday 16 January 2015. Please respond to all recipients of this email (as I will be on leave for much of January).

Thank you all – and I hope you have a Merry Christmas and great New Year.

Kind regards

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*A safe food supply which supports the health of people in Australia and New Zealand*

