SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Inability to assess the safety of stannic chloride added for nutritional purposes as a source of tin in food supplements and the bioavailability of tin from this source based on the supporting dossier\(^1\)

Scientific Statement of the Panel on Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS)

(Question No EFSA-Q-2006-224)

Adopted on 26 November 2008

SCIENTIFIC PANEL MEMBERS


BACKGROUND AS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

The European Community legislation lists nutritional substances that may be used for nutritional purposes in certain categories of foods as sources of certain nutrients.

The Commission has received a request for the evaluation of tin chloride added for nutritional purposes to food supplements. The relevant Community legislative measure is:


TERMS OF REFERENCE AS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

In accordance with Article 29 (1) (a) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, the European Commission asks the European Food Safety Authority to provide a scientific opinion, based

\(^1\) For citation purposes: Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS) on a request from the Commission on stannic chloride as a source of tin added for nutritional purposes in food supplements. \textit{The EFSA Journal} (2008) 885, 1-3.

on its consideration of the safety and bioavailability of tin chloride added for nutritional purposes in food supplements.

**STATEMENT**

Following a request from the Commission to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Scientific Panel on Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS) was asked to provide a scientific opinion on the safety of stannic chloride added for nutritional purposes as a source of tin in food supplements and on the bioavailability of tin from this source.

The Panel notes that:

- The dossier referred to stannic chloride (tin tetrachloride, CAS Register Number 7646-78-8) which is not the tin salt (stannous chloride or tin dichloride, CAS Register Number 7772-99-8) permitted as a food additive in Europe. Stannous chloride has been previously assessed by JECFA (1982 and 1988) and the SCF (1991). The Panel concluded that those evaluations were therefore not relevant to the dossier.

- The Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA), on a request from the Commission in 2005, related to the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of tin, had concluded that the available data from human and animal studies mostly dealing with tin dichloride, and not tin tetrachloride, were insufficient to derive a tolerable upper intake level for tin.

- The petitioner has not provided any data on either the toxicity of stannic chloride or the bioavailability of tin from stannic chloride.

- The limited existing toxicological data, specific to stannic chloride, have not been addressed by the petitioner.

Therefore, the Panel concludes that due to the lack of an appropriate dossier supporting the use of stannic chloride in food supplements, the safety of stannic chloride and the bioavailability of tin from this substance cannot be assessed.

**Key words:**

Food supplements, stannic chloride, tin tetrachloride, CAS number 7646-78-8

**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO EFSA**


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