

# *AFC Panel review on dyes illegally present in food in the EU*

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Panel on Food **A**dditives **F**lavourings, Processing  
Aids and Materials in **C**ontact with Food (**AFC**)

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# AFC Panel Tasks

- **Food additives** (e.g. colours, sweeteners, antioxidants etc)
- **Nutrient sources** (e.g. food supplements) (only safety of source, but not nutritional efficacy)
- **Flavourings** (Chemical substances (FGE), "active principles", smoke flavourings)
- **Processing aids** (e.g. solvents, filtering agents, poultry decontamination(?),...)
- **Food enzymes**
- **Processes** (e.g. irradiation, ..)
- **Food contact materials** (monomers and additives, recycling, active and intelligent packaging)
- **All other substances deliberately added to food** (but not "novel food") (carnitine, taurine, caffeine, )

# Illegal dyes - EFSA

- Followed situation since Sudan red first found in 1973
- EFSA not asked as Risk Management issue
- 4 May 2005 alert on Para red from UK
- 10 May meeting COM + MS agree to ask EFSA (within 2 months delay)
- 23 (26) May terms of reference from COM (31 July)
- 5 August adopted "opinion" (written procedure)

## Dyes actually found

- **Sudan red I + II + III + IV (+ 7B)**
- **Para red**
- **Rhodamine B**
- **Orange II**

## Other "similar" dyes

- Thousands of colours not authorised in foods
- "Carcinogenic" a key word (e.g. IARC)
- Earlier reported to be found in foods (banned?)
- Avoid helping the crooks by too clearly show priorities for testing

# Colours reported in foods outside EU which should be considered carcinogenic

- Acid Red 73
- Metanil Yellow
- Butter Yellow
- Naphthol Yellow
- Leucomalachite Green
- Ponceau 3R
- Oil Orange SS
- Sudan Red 7B
- AuramineCongo Red
- Solvent Red I
- Malachite Green
- Ponceau MX

## Other "similar" dyes

- Is it OK to adulterate as long as it is not carcinogenic?
- Where to look for likely candidates?
- Are the producers in good faith?



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**Just Published****Food Science and Technology Bulletin**The scientific substantiation of health claims with particular reference to the grading of evidence and consumer understanding. - [Click here](#)[Email this page](#)[Print in friendly format](#)[News by email](#)[Your comments](#)**Food labs push out Para Red tests**

12/05/2005 - Reacting rapidly to the discovery of the banned colour Para Red in processed foods, UK food laboratory RSSL has a new method to help food makers detect this potential carcinogen, reports *Lindsey Partos*.

Identified for the first time in the UK food chain earlier this month, the discovery of Para Red has already propelled the withdrawal of nearly 50 foods from the shelves.

Illegal under the 1995 Colours in Food Regulations, the chemical dye paranitraniline red is a genotoxic carcinogen chemically similar to Sudan 1, the banned





# Has the problem stopped?

DATE	Notifying country	Unauthorised colour in	Country of origin
03/01/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 in pasta with spices	ITALY
03/01/2006	Norway	Sudan 1 in curry powder hot/mild madras	UNITED KINGDOM
03/01/2006	Norway	Sudan 1 in spice mixture	INDIA
04/01/2006	Norway	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in herbs for pizza and chicken	TURKEY
09/01/2006	Norway	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in paprika powder	TURKEY
13/01/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in paprika flakes	TURKEY
13/01/2006	Germany	Sudan 4 and Sudan Red 7B in palm oil	GHANA
16/01/2006	United Kingdom	Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA
17/01/2006	Czech Republic	Rhodamine B in curcuma	VIETNAM
26/01/2006	Germany	Para Red in spice mixture for "plov" (Uzbek dish)	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
26/01/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Para Red in spice mixture for chicken	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
26/01/2006	United Kingdom	Sudan 1 in chilli powder	UNKNOWN ORIGIN
27/01/2006	Germany	Para Red in spice mixture	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
27/01/2006	Germany	Para Red in spice mixture	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

DATE	Notifying country	Unauthorised colour in	Country of origin
13/02/2006	Italy	Sudan 1 in tomato sauce	CUBA
14/02/2006	Greece	Sudan 1 in sweet red pepper	TURKEY
20/02/2006	Italy	Sudan 3 in hot sauce	CHINA
21/02/2006	United Kingdom	Sudan 1, Sudan 2, Sudan 3 and Sudan 4 in palm oil	NIGERIA
27/02/2006	Austria	Sudan 4 in pure zomi palm oil	GHANA VIA UNITED KINGDOM
28/02/2006	United Kingdom	Orange II in ground red chilli	NIGERIA
07/03/2006	Greece	Sudan 1 in cayenne pepper	THE F. Y. R OF MACEDONIA
15/03/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Para Red in spices for georgian cooking	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
14/03/2006	Germany	Para Red and toluidine red in grill spices	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
15/03/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Para Red in spices for georgian cooking	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
22/03/2006	Germany	Sudan 4 in mild madras curry powder	INDIA VIA UNITED KINGDOM
22/03/2006	Germany	Sudan 4 in hot madras curry powder	INDIA VIA UNITED KINGDOM

DATE	Notifying country	Unauthorised colour in	Country of origin
21/03/2006	Italy	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in aubergine sauces with hot chilli pepper	ROMANIA
22/03/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 in spice mixture for carrot salad Korean way	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
05/04/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in turmeric	PAKISTAN
07/04/2006	United Kingdom	Orange II in Nigerian pepper soup mix	NIGERIA
10/04/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in chilli powder	BELGIUM
11/04/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in spice mixtures	TURKEY
12/04/2006	United Kingdom	Sudan 4 in palm oil	NIGERIA
21/04/2006	Germany	Rhodamine B in mixed spices with chilli	CHINA
03/05/2006	Germany	Rhodamine B in coconut flavoured biscuits	VIETNAM
10/05/2006	Germany	Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in hot paprika powder	TURKEY
29/05/2006	France	Sudan 4 in palm oil	TOGO
29/05/2006	France	Sudan 1 and methyl yellow in curry powder	?
01/06/2006	France	Sudan 1 in red pepper	LEBANON
29/05/2006	France	unauthorised use of colour E 160b - annato/bixin/norbixin in red palm oil	UNKNOWN ORIGIN VIA BELGIUM

