



# Nordic Food Additive Database

## Objectives

The purpose of the Nordic Food Additive Database is to present the most recent data on the safety of food additives. The database is based on the original report:

*Food additives in Europe 2000*

*Status of safety assessments of food additives presently permitted in the EU*  
prepared for the Nordic Council of Ministers, 2002.

Toxicological evaluations and substance specifications from both the EU Scientific Committee on Food (SCF), and the WHO/FAO Joint Expert Group on Food Additives (JECFA) are included. The database also include the present permitted use levels in EU and is thereby offering a general view on almost all aspect of the safety assessments of the individual food additives.

One of the main purposes of the report *Food additives in Europe 2000* was to facilitate a prioritisation, if a systematic review of the safety of food additives is to be initiated in EU. This was done by allocating each substance a recommendation value based on the present concern due to new toxicological data, lack of appropriate scientific toxicological data or lack of exposure assessments. The database presents all the information taken into consideration when the recommendation values for the individual substances were assigned. It is important to note for the European consumer that a high recommendation value not necessarily depicts a safety problem. The overall conclusion of the report was that there is no need for any urgent action regarding reassessing the use of the presently approved food additives. However, the report points out a series of aspects, which warrant attention e.g. that many substances have not been re-assessed for many years, although new data are accumulating in the scientific literature and in certain cases calls for a new assessment and that for some additives their uses should be assessed to reassure that the exposure complies with the recommendations of SCF/EFSA.

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