



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



20 FEB 2019

FDA ADVISORY
No. **2019-037**

TO : CONCERNED ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT : USE OF COLOR ADDITIVES IN FOOD PRODUCTS

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing Administrative Order (AO) No. 88-A Series of 1984 or the *Regulatory Guidelines Concerning Food Additives*, and BFAD Circular No. 2006-016 or the *Updated List of Food Additives*, to meet the current and emerging trends in food manufacturing.

For the guidance of the stakeholders, the FDA is mandated by Section 9 (a) and (b) of Republic Act No. 10611, or the Food Safety Act of 2013, to adopt standards on the basis of science, risk analysis, scientific advice from expert body/bodies, standards of other countries, existing Philippine National Standards (PNS) and the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), where these exist and are applicable (except when these are in conflict with what is necessary to protect consumers and scientific justification exists for the action taken), and particularly by AO No. 88-A and BFAD Circular No. 2006-016, on matters concerning food additives.

Section 2.1 of AO No. 88-A provides that "foodstuffs containing additives not found in the list shall be considered illegal x x x" while Part III A (1) of BFAD Circular No. 2006-016 provides that "only those food additives which present no appreciable risk to the health of the consumer at the proposed level of use as found by JECFA and/or other internationally recognized bodies shall be endorsed and included in the APPENDIX, after proper evaluation by DOH-BFAD". Section 9b.2 Article IV of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 11063, and Section 3 of AO No. 88-A, admit of certain exceptions provided the proponent complies with the requirements of the FDA.

While FDA takes due note of the expert opinion of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the CODEX Committee on Food Additives Working Group (CCFA-WG), that the use of color food additives is safe, the FDA is bound by the foregoing laws, rules and regulations, in the exercise of its regulatory functions.

Nevertheless, the FDA seeks to clarify through this Advisory that it has not issued any ban on the use of color additives in food products registered with the Agency, nor has it implemented any new regulation restricting its use in food products.

For more information and inquiries, please e-mail us at info@fda.gov.ph or call us at FDA Action Center hotline (02) 821-1162, or the Center for Food Regulation & Research at (02) 857-1900.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

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