

15 April 2013

FDA Advisory  
No. 2013-009

**SUBJECT: FDA ALLOWS THE USE OF "MAGIC SUGAR" BUT  
REQUIRES ALL IMPORTERS, TRADERS AND  
DISTRIBUTORS TO SECURE FDA AUTHORIZATION**

The FDA will allow the use of "magic sugar" and in effect revokes BFAD Advisory No. 2000-05, which prohibits its importation, distribution and sale. All importers, traders and distributors are ordered to apply for market authorizations from the FDA to ensure proper label and safe use of the product. The decision of the FDA to finally allow the applications for market authorization is based on Codex Standard 192-1995 on Additives Permitted for Use Under Specified Conditions in Certain Food Categories or Individual Food Items, and other provisions of CODEX General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA).

"Magic sugar" is an artificial non-caloric sweetening agent which was discovered in 1937. It is chemically known as sodium cyclamate, cyclamic acid or calcium cyclamate. Despite the findings that it can cause urinary bladder tumors in laboratory rats, it was marketed in several countries, but not in the Philippines. Prior to this Advisory, cyclamate is approved for use in more than 100 countries, including Europe, Canada, and Australia. Several reviews made by the WHO/FAO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and European Food Safety Authority showed that in these countries, there have been no safety concerns among its millions of consumers. These findings, among others, led to the adoption of cyclamate as food additive by the CODEX Alimentarius Committee.

CODEX was created by the FAO and the WHO to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in international trade in food through the development of food standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations. CODEX standards and guidelines are developed by committees, which are open to all UN member countries.

The maximum level of magic sugar in food is contained in the GSFA. To ensure the safe use of magic sugar, all food processors are advised to adhere to the CODEX standard and to declare the use of artificial sweeteners and to print the proper use. All FDA food inspectors are ordered to monitor if all magic sugars sold in outlets and used by food processors are authorized by the FDA.

  
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