

News Release



European Food Safety Authority rates BASF's LycoVit as safe

May 2nd, 2008
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The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has assessed BASF's lycopene formulations marketed under the brand name LycoVit[®] as safe for use in foods and food supplements. In this way, the Authority is confirming that BASF's synthetically produced LycoVit is an alternative to natural lycopene.

LycoVit has been marketed globally for years – except for the markets of the European Union (E.U.) In the U.S. LycoVit formulations have been generally recognized as safe for use in food supplements and foods since 2003.

“EFSA's positive opinion will be the basis for the still open decision of the European Commission and the member states of the European Union regarding BASF's application for approval” said Dr. Bernd Haber, who is responsible for Regulatory Affairs in the human nutrition business of BASF's Care Chemicals Division. “It is a positive development that we took another hurdle in the approval process in the EU”, said Haber.

Lycopene is a carotenoid that is responsible for the red color in tomatoes, watermelons and grapefruits. As an antioxidant, it reduces the damaging effect of reactive oxygen species and promotes cell

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protection. Clinical studies have shown that lycopene plays an important part in preventing prostate cancer. In addition, lycopene helps the cardiovascular system and is a component in the skin's natural UV protection. BASF's LycoVit is a nature-identical lycopene manufactured specially for food supplements and food fortification.

Nutrition Ingredients

BASF's Nutrition Ingredients business unit is a leading supplier of food ingredients and feed additives. The product portfolio for human nutrition includes vitamins, carotenoids, omega-3s and others. BASF offers products of outstanding quality produced with modern, state-of-the-art technologies. BASF also combines technical services and scientific expertise to meet the highest demands and to deliver the best value to the industry. Premium formulations are a key strength that has made BASF a leader in the industry. Further information is available under www.nutrition.basf.com and www.nutrition-ingredients.basf.com

About BASF

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from oil and gas to chemicals, plastics, performance products, agricultural products and fine chemicals. As a reliable partner BASF helps its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF has more than 95,000 employees and posted sales of almost € 58 billion in 2007. Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.