

Application for consultation to determine the status of a novel food pursuant to Article 4(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.

Recipient Member State

Finnish Food Authority

Name and description of the food in question

Extract powder from the fruiting body of Chaga (*Inonotus obliquus*)

The extract powder is produced from the fruiting body/conk of the mushroom Chaga (*Inonotus obliquus*) with a method that utilizes both ultrasonic-assisted extraction (UAE) and traditional hot water extraction. Conks are dried and ground, extracted with hot water and UAE treated, freeze-dried, and packed. The chaga extract powder is used as/in food supplements.

Status

Not novel in food supplements.

Food category

Not relevant.

Reasons statement

The competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were consulted.

According to the Novel Food Status Catalogue of the European Commission, Chaga (*Inonotus obliquus*) mushroom has been used in food supplements before 15 May 1997 and thus its' use in food supplements is not considered to be novel. This applies to powder and extract forms of chaga.

Ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE) is not a new production process, as it has been used within the Union in food production for liquid foodstuff and especially for different plant-based products prior to 15 May 1997. However, according to the information provided in the request, the UAE combined with water extraction has not been previously used for mushrooms in the EU. The question is then, whether this production process, which is novel for mushrooms, gives rise to significant changes in the composition or structure of a food, affecting its nutritional value, metabolism or level of undesirable substances. According to the evidence provided in the request, the UAE method combined with traditional water extraction does not lead to significant changes in the composition or structure of Chaga extract, affecting its' nutritional value, metabolism or level of undesirable substances when compared to the traditional water extraction method.

Conclusion

Extract powder from the fruiting body of Chaga (*Inonotus obliquus*) is not novel in food supplements.