

Article 4 Request
Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Recipient Member State: Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

Name of the Food: Monk fruit decoctions

Date: 02/10/2024

Description of the food

‘Monk fruit decoctions’ are non-selective water extracts of the fresh or dried fruit of the plant *Siraitia grosvenorii*, commonly known as monk fruit or “luo han guo”. The applicant states that selective extraction of mogrosides (the sweetening component of the fruit) does not occur during production.

Novel or Not Novel

The FSAI has concluded that ‘monk fruit decoctions’ are **not novel foods**.

Reasons why it is not a Novel Food

When consulted, none of the Competent Authorities in the EU Member States in which the face-to-face interviews and surveys by questionnaire were carried out indicated that ‘monk fruit decoctions’ were used for human consumption to a significant degree within their jurisdictions prior to May 15, 1997. However, the UK, which had received a similar Article 4 request from the same applicant at around the same time as Ireland, concluded that human consumption to a significant degree within the UK before May 15, 1997, had been demonstrated. Being an EU Member State until 2020, a history of significant consumption of a food within the UK before 1997 can equate to a history of significant consumption of that food within the EU before 1997.

Appropriate Novel Food Category

- Not applicable