SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Inability to assess the safety of calcium amino acid chelate, copper amino acid chelate, magnesium amino acid chelate, manganese amino acid chelate and zinc amino acid chelate added for nutritional purposes to food supplements based on the supporting dossiers ¹

Statement of the Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food


Adopted on 30 April 2009

PANEL MEMBERS


¹ For citation purposes: Scientific Statement of the Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food on the inability to assess the safety of calcium amino acid chelate, copper amino acid chelate, magnesium amino acid chelate, manganese amino acid chelate and zinc amino acid chelate added for nutritional purposes to food supplements based on the supporting dossiers following a request from the European Commission. The EFSA Journal (2009) 1077, 1-5.
BACKGROUND AS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

The European Community legislation lists nutritional substances that may be used for nutritional purposes in certain categories of foods as sources of certain nutrients.

The Commission has received a request for the evaluation of calcium amino acid chelate, copper amino acid chelate, magnesium amino acid chelate, manganese amino acid chelate and zinc amino acid chelate added for nutritional purposes to food supplements. The relevant Community legislative measure is:


TERMS OF REFERENCE AS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

In accordance with Article 29 (1) (a) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, the European Commission asks the European Food Safety Authority to provide a scientific opinion, based on its consideration of the safety and bioavailability of calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese and zinc amino acid chelates added for nutritional purposes to food supplements.

ASSESSMENT

1. Summary of the information provided by the petitioner

According to the petitioner, calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc-amino acid chelates consist of the respective nutrient cation (Ca, Cu, Mg, Mn, Zn) and an amino acid/polypeptide/metabolic intermediate at a ratio of 1:1 or 1:2. Specifications were provided for cadmium, lead, mercury, cesium and arsenic. Microbiological specifications were also provided. However, no details are provided neither on the chemical nature of the sources nor on the origin or nature of the respective polypeptide fractions composing the sources.

No adequate description of the manufacturing process is provided explaining e.g. more in particular the role and fate of aspartic acid, citric acid and the large carbohydrate fraction derived from the rice flour in the sources after production.

No data were provided on the proposed use levels, the safety of calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc-amino acid chelates, nor on the bioavailability of calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese and zinc from these sources.

2. Assessment

The Panel notes that the petitioner has not provided any information on the nature of amino acids in the amino acid chelates.

The Panel notes that the petitioner has not provided any data on the toxicity of calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc-amino acid chelates, nor on the bioavailability of calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese and zinc from these sources.

CONCLUSIONS

The Panel concludes that due to the lack of an adequate dossier supporting the use of calcium, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc-amino acid chelates in food supplements, the safety of calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc amino acid chelates and the bioavailability of calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese and zinc from these sources cannot be assessed.

Key words:

Food supplements, copper amino acid chelate, magnesium amino acid chelate, manganese amino acid chelate, zinc amino acid chelates, calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese, zinc.
Inability to assess the safety of calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc amino acid chelate as sources of calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese and zinc in food supplements

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO EFSA


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Inability to assess the safety of calcium-, copper-, magnesium-, manganese- and zinc amino acid chelate as sources of calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese and zinc in food supplements

GLOSSARY / ABBREVIATIONS

ANS Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Foods
EC European Commission
EFSA European Food Safety Authority