

To: Lead Food Officers
Cc: REHIS, CoSLA, SFELC

25 May 2015

FSS/ENF/15/005

Dear Colleague,

Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) used as a carrier in colouring pens for food decoration

We would like to bring to your attention the unauthorised use of the carrier IPA in edible inks for cake decorations. We request that Local Authorities take appropriate action to withdraw any non-compliant products from sale.

Background

IPA is not a permitted additive under EU food additives legislation (Regulation 1333/2008) and its use in any food for an additive function is not authorised.

IPA, used in colours in edible marker pens, is considered a carrier or carrier solvent. Carriers used in colours are subject to the provisions of Annex III of Regulation 1333/2008 (Commission Regulation No 1130/2011 refers). Only the additives listed can be used and, as IPA is not listed as a permitted additive, its use in colours is not authorised.

At a recent Food Additives Working Group meeting in Brussels, EU Member States all agreed that IPA in edible markers for cake decorations should be classified as a non-authorised carrier. Recently the issue re-emerged following a notification from Spain regarding IPA being used in food colouring pens sold in Spain, marketed by a UK company,

Enforcement action to be taken where non-compliant products are found on sale.

Food colouring inks and pens containing IPA may be found on internet sales sites or at retail premises such as independent outlets supplying cake decorating materials. Officers are advised

to check the labelling of the pens to see if IPA is used as an ingredient and, if so, where possible advise that they are withdrawn from sale. Where appropriate, manufacturers should be advised to reformulate their products.

For internet sales Local Authorities, in liaison with the FSS, should notify the originating Authority.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me (Jacqueline.angus@fss.scot, 01224 285175)

Yours faithfully



Jacqui Angus
Food Standards Scotland