

Nisin 234 and possibly Natamycin or pimaricin 235 (types of antibiotics) and Ethyl lauroyl arginate 243 (antimicrobial)

You would be surprised to find the food industry adding an antibiotic in your cream and dairy products, mayonnaise, tomato products, fruit juices, pasta, processed meat, eggs and alcoholic beverages, but that is what can happen. Now Russia, of all countries, has raised the alarm. Supported by Norway, concerns were presented to the Forty-eighth Session of the JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME, CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES at Xi'an, China, 14-18 March 2016.

Russia says that “nisin can promote resistance and increase the risk of transfer of antibiotic resistance to representatives of the intestinal microflora, as well as speeding up virulence and pathogenic potential of microorganisms which cause food borne illnesses.”

“Based on the data on the possible negative impact of nisin on human health and the fact of bioengineered nisin use it is necessary to conduct the nisin risk revision.”

The outcome was that the meeting ‘noted the reservations of Russia and Norway’ about nisin!

More details:

The new Food Standards Code, which came into force on 1 March 2016, will continue to allow the wide use of nisin, a bacteriocin which is type of antibiotic. There are international concerns that nisin will lead to antibiotic resistance.

It can be used in the following foods:

- Cream products (flavoured, whipped, thickened, sour cream etc), Dairy and fat based desserts, dips and snacks, Cheese and cheese products
- Sauces and toppings (including mayonnaises and salad dressings) and other Oil emulsions
- Tomato products, Fruit and vegetable preparations including pulp, Fruit and vegetable juices
- Flour products (including noodles and pasta)
- Processed meat, poultry and game products in whole cuts, pieces or comminuted.
- Liquid egg products
- Alcoholic beverages (including alcoholic beverages that have had the alcohol reduced or removed)

Read the label.

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