

The Director-General of the World Health Organization presents his compliments and, pursuant to Resolution WHA23.50 of the Twenty-third World Health Assembly on Health Hazards of Food Additives, has the honour to transmit the following information on food additives which he has received under provision (2) of this Resolution. (The original communication from which this information is drawn is retained in the archives of WHO for consultation.)

The World Health Organization has been informed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Health and Social Security, United Kingdom, that regulations have been made for the deletion of five colours from the permitted list of food colours.

The five colours are:

- (1) Fast Yellow AB (C.I. (1956) 13015), (E105)
- (2) Orchil/Orcein (C.I. (1924) 1242), (E121)
- (3) Indanthrene Blue (C.I. (1956) 69800), (E130)
- (4) Black 7984 (C.I. (1971) 27755), (E152)
- (5) Burnt Umber (E181)

The new regulations are designed to harmonize the United Kingdom regulations and the European Economic Community Council Directive on colouring matters for use in human food.

The sale, consignment, delivery, importation or advertisement for sale of the colours have been prohibited since 1 January 1977, and the sale of food containing these colours will be prohibited from 1 January 1978, so allowing one year for the clearance of existing stocks of food.

The amendment is consequential on a report by the EEC Scientific Committee for Food on the revision of the Directive relating to colouring matters. This Committee recommended that a number of colours, for which an acceptable daily intake (ADI) could not be established in the absence of adequate toxicological studies, were no longer acceptable for use in food.