

Ref: FEHD/CFS 8/10/11/6

9 July 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Sweeteners in Food (Amendment) Regulation 2010 -  
Adding Neotame and Steviol Glycosides to the List of Permitted Sweeteners**

I am writing to inform you that Neotame (International Numbering System for Food Additives, INS No. 961) and Steviol glycosides (INS No. 960) shall be added to the Schedule of the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Cap. 132 sub. leg. U).

Under the current Schedule, there are a total of 8 permitted sweeteners, namely (i) acesulfame potassium, (ii) alitame, (iii) aspartame, (iv) aspartame-acesulfame salt, (v) cyclamic acid (and sodium, potassium, calcium salts), (vi) saccharin (and sodium, potassium, calcium Salts), (vii) sucralose and (viii) thaumatin. From 1 August 2010, apart from the above sweeteners, it is also permitted to sell, consign, deliver or import neotame and steviol glycosides for consumption in Hong Kong. All permitted sweeteners should be used in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) i.e. the quantity added to food should be limited to the lowest possible level necessary to accomplish its desired effect.

In addition, you are advised to note, as stipulated in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations, if a food contains a food additive including neotame and steviol glycosides, such additive shall be specified on the prepackaged food label by its functional class i.e. sweetener **and** its exact name or its identification number.

Should you have further enquiries on the Amendment Regulation, please contact us at 2867 5699

Yours sincerely



(Wong Hung-ming)  
for Controller, Centre of Food Safety