

L-Carnitine L-Tartrate approved for foodstuffs

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Basel - Swiss chemicals company Lonza announced today that L-Carnitine L-Tartrate is approved in the EU for use in all foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses (Parnuts). Commission Directive 2001/15/EC of 15 February 2001, containing a list of substances that may be added for specific nutritional purposes, was recently amended by Commission Directive 2004/5/EC.

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All EU member states will need to adapt their national regulations before 31 March 2004 in order to allow L-Carnitine L-Tartrate in Parnuts applications. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that L-Carnitine L-Tartrate in a dosage of up to 3 gram/day is safe to be used. The approval comes just before the deadline of 1 April 2004 set for the prohibition of trade in products which do not comply with EU Directive 2001/15/EC.

L-Carnitine occurs naturally in the human body and is frequently referred to as the "energy nutrient" because of its primary physiological role in the human body, which centres on the generation of energy from fat. L-Carnitine carries long chain fatty acids into the mitochondria where they are oxidised. L-Carnitine L-Tartrate is a stable non-hygroscopic salt of L-Carnitine.

The ingredient L-Carnitine is used by physically active people to help optimize the performance, delay the onset of fatigue and to improve the recovery process. Studies also showed that L-Carnitine can be useful as part of a weight management program when combined with exercise and calorie restriction. The latest research reveals beneficial effects of L-Carnitine for physical and mental well-being of elderly people.

Richard Sasse, Regulatory Affairs Manager at Lonza, commented, "This again shows the good scientific, biological and toxicological basis for L-Carnitine L-Tartrate produced by Lonza with its unique production process".

Lonza is the world's largest manufacturer of L-Carnitine and is the only manufacturer that guarantees 100% pure L-Carnitine, completely free from harmful D-Carnitine. L-Carnipure® L-Carnitine Crystalline contains 100% L-Carnitine, while L-Carnipure® L-Carnitine L-Tartrate (U.S. Patent 5,073,376 and other international patents) consists of 68% L-Carnitine and 32% L-tartaric acid. Most recently, L-Carnipure® L-Carnitine Crystalline and L-Carnitine L-Tartrate have been self-affirmed as GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe). Being crystalline, white, water-soluble and heat stable, both products are ideal for use in various food and drink applications. In addition, L-Carnitine L-Tartrate is non-hygroscopic, odorless and has a pleasant citrus taste and excellent flowability. Both products are kosher certified. Further details are available at www.carnitine.com.

Lonza is a life sciences driven company, headquartered in Switzerland, which generated sales of CHF 2.24 billion in 2003. It operates 18 production and R&D facilities in eight countries and employs 5660 people worldwide. Lonza is one of the leading custom manufacturers of chemical intermediates and active ingredients as well as bio-pharmaceuticals for the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries. In addition, Lonza also offers organic intermediates for a wide range of applications and provides antimicrobial and associated products as well as polymer intermediates and compounds. For more information please visit the company's website at www.lonza.com.

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