PREMARKET EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY OF NEW FOOD AND COLOR ADDITIVES

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Abstract: Food and color additives are an integral part of the modern food system, but opinion polls suggest that Americans are increasingly expressing health and other concerns. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the various aspects of the United States (U.S.) Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s decision-making process for evaluating the safety of new food and color additives. Prior to the entry of a new food or color additive into the U.S. marketplace, it must go through a premarket approval process by the FDA. This premarket evaluation assures the safety of new food and color additives. The 1958 Food Additive Amendment of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) of 1938 gives the FDA this authority. This premarket process for the evaluation of the safety of a food or color additive is a sound, scientific process that utilizes toxicology and risk assessment tools to make a scientific judgment on the safety of the additive for its intended use. This presentation also discusses another category of food ingredients- the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) ingredients, which also has the same safety standard as food additives, but it is a notification process rather than an approval process, as is the case for food and color additives. Given that this premarket safety evaluation of food and color additives by the FDA is a rigorous scientific process, consumers should have confidence that the food and color additives added to the foods they consume are reasonably safe.

Key words: Food and Drug Administration, Food additives, Color Additives, Safety, GRAS, Toxicology, Risk Assessment.