

EFA Fact Sheet on Food Source Materials: Sakura

To the best of our knowledge Cherry tree (which includes the fruits as well as the flowers), in some cases referred to as “Sakura” has a history of use as a food source material and can therefore be considered as a food source material for the production of a flavouring in the context of the EU Flavouring Regulation.

Introduction

The Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 on flavourings (hereinafter “the Flavouring Regulation”) distinguishes between source materials, which can be considered as “food”¹ (hereinafter “food sources”) and source materials other than food (hereinafter “non-food-sources”), see Article 3(2)(j) of the Regulation.

Legal Status of Food Source Materials

According to Article 3(3) (and Recital (16)) of the Flavouring Regulation source materials, for which hitherto (until the date of application of the Regulation, i.e. 20.01.2011) there is significant evidence of use for the production of flavourings, shall also be considered as food for the purpose of the Regulation. EFA is of the view that all sources which have been used for the production of flavourings before the date of application of the Regulation (i.e. 20.01.2011) and for which this use can be evidenced, should therefore be considered as “food-sources”.

Evidence of use as food

According to the [EFA Guidance Document on the Determination of Food Sources](#) [see attached] the determination of the food status of a source material (i.e. whether a certain source material can be regarded as a food source or not) depends on certain factors like proven record of evidence of use.

Amongst those proven records the following evidence can be used:

- The SM has been used for the production of flavourings before 20 January 2011.
- The SM is listed in an inventory of recognized source materials compiled from different regulatory and/or assessment bodies around the world. To the best of our knowledge the following lists are currently available: COE “Blue Book”, FEMA-GRAS-List, FDA-Lists, Japan FSL (Food Sanitation Law), China CPL (Chinese Positive List in GB 2760-2011). The IOFI Global Reference List (GRL) is publicly available and includes a compilation of COE, FEMA and FDA listed materials. For the IOFI membership there is a comprehensive IOFI data base available that also contains information on other references.

Specific reference to the [Japan FSL](#) and the [IOFI GRL](#) is provided below.

Case of Sakura (Cherry tree) – Japanese list

According to experts of the Japanese Flavour Association (JFFMA), Sakura has been being officially listed as one of raw materials of natural flavourings since 1989. It was the time when the authority decided to take all food additives (not only chemically “synthesized” but also “other than chemically synthesized (= naturals)” into consideration for food labelling.

¹ According to Article 2 of Regulation 178/2002 “food” is considered as any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans.

They prepared and issued a "list of food additives other than chemically synthesized" [see the attached file which is extracted from the original list].

There are two items listed related to cherry. One is "Sakura(サクラ)" which means "cherry" but translated as "cherry tree". Another one is "sakuranbo (サクランボ)" which means only "cherry fruit", but translated as "cherry" in this list.

In a guidebook published by JFFMA in 1990 with a note by the director of the Food standard division of the Ministry of Health (i.e. the Authority), the raw material "Sakura" includes not only trees and barks but also flowers and leaves.

Regarding the history of use of Sakura as food, it is widely assumed that Japanese people has been using not only cherry fruits but also other parts such as salted cherry leaves and blossoms for food (e.g. traditional tea and confectionaries) for hundred years.

As additional information we also attach the English translation of the "Labelling of additives, etc. based on the Food Sanitation Law" from the Consumer Affairs Agency of Japan (dated 20 October, 2010).

Other evidence: IOFI GRL

As part of the "proven records", cited above (referring to the EFTA Guidance Document), also the IOFI GRL (Global Reference List) is mentioned.

Indeed, Sakura is also listed in this Global Reference List. In fact there are two references for Cherry tree (but only the second reference is also referring to "Sakura"):

- Cherry tree (*Prunus lannesiana*). Parts of plants, used for flavouring production include: Branches; Leaves; fruits; (dried).
- Japanese Cherry (*Prunus serrulate*; Sakura). Parts of plants, used for flavouring production include: flowers.

See the two corresponding reports in pdf from the IOFI GRL attached.

The IOFI GRL is publicly accessible through the following link: [IOFI Global Reference List \(flavordata.com\)](https://flavordata.com)

Conclusion

Based on the above (history of use, listing in Japanese list before 2011 and other evidence; meeting the requirements of the EFTA Guidance Document on Source Materials) it is our understanding that cherry tree (and fruits and flowers thereof), often referred to as "Sakura" can be regarded as a "food source material" for the production of flavourings, in the context of the EU Flavouring Regulation.

About EFTA

EFTA, the European Flavour Association, is a non-profit trade association representing European national associations and companies in the flavour industry based in Brussels. Our membership consists of 12 national associations and 11 company members. In total, EFTA is representing over 300 companies in Europe, ranging from smaller SMEs to stock market listed companies.

EFTA's main objectives are to promote and support a consistent European-wide strategy for flavour issues and to elaborate dossiers, for evaluation by the EU Institutions – Evaluation Committees, to stimulate, coordinate and monitor best practice in regulatory, safety, technical and scientific issues, between members of the flavour sector and related industries through standards, guidelines, and codes of practice. EFTA is registered in the Transparency Register under the following number: 7102243339711.

EFTA Secretariat

26 August 2024

第 一 版

化学的合成品以外の食品添加物リスト

Food additive list other than those chemically synthesized

1989

厚生省生活衛生局食品化学課

Food chemical division, Public Health Bureau, Ministry of Health

品質管理センター

定義

香料とは、下記の動植物性物質を基原物質とし、これらのもの又は焙煎、発酵、酵素処理、若しくは、加水分解などの処理をしたものを、圧搾、抽出、水蒸気蒸留等の製法を用いて製造したもので、香気を付与又は増強するために使用されるものを言う。

基原物質名	別名	備考
アップルミント		Apple mint
アーティチョーク	チョウセンアザミ	Artichoke
アーモンド		Almond
アイスランドモス	アイスランド苔	Iceland moss
アカヤジオウ		Akayajio
アケビ		Akebia
アサ	麻	Hemp
アサフェチダ		Asafetida
アジョワン		Ajowan
アジアンタム		Maidenhair fern
小豆	アズキ	Red beans
アニス		Anise
アボカド		Avocado
アマチャ	甘茶	Amacha
アマチャヅル		Amachazuru
アミガサユリ		Amigasayuri
アミリス		Amyris
アリタソウ		Aritaso
アルカンナ		Alkanet
アルテミシア		Artemisia
アルニカ		Arnica
アルファルファ		Alfalfa
アロエ		Aloe
アンゼリカ	アンゲリカ	Angelica
アンゴスツラ		Angostura
アンゴラ ウィード		Angola weed
アンズ	アブリコット	Apricot
アンズタケ		Anzutake, Chanterelle

Raw material name	Synonyms	Note
基原物質名	別名	備考
アンバー		Amber
アンバークリス	竜涎香	Ambergris
アンブレット		Ambrette
イースト	酵母	Yeasts
イカ		Squid
イカリソウ		Ikariso
イグサ		Rush
イタドリ		Itadori
イチョウ		Ginkgo, Ginkgo
イチゴ	ストロベリー	Strawberry
イチジク	フィグ	Fig
イノコヅチ		Inokozuchi
イランイラン		Ylang-ylang
イワオウギ		Iwaohgi
インペラトリア		Imperatoria
インモルテル		Immortelle, Everlasting flower
ウィンターグリーン		Wintergreen
ウォータークレス	オランダガラシ	Water cress
ウッドラフ	クルマバソウ	Woodruff
ウーロン茶		Oolong tea
ウコギ		Ukogi
ウコン	ターメリック	Turmeric
ウスバサイシン		Usubasaishin
ウニ		Sea urchin
ウメ		Ume, Japanese apricot
エゴマ		Egoma

基原物質名	別 名	備 考
ケンポナシ		Kenponashi, Japanese raisin tree
ゲットウ	月桃	Getto
ゲルマンダー		Germander
ゲンノショウコ	フーロソウ	Gennoshoko
コーヒー		Coffee
コーラ		Cola
コウジ		Koji
コウタケ		Koutake
紅茶	コウチャ	Black tea
コウホネ		Kohone
コカ		Coca
コガネバナ		Koganebana
黒糖	コクトウ	Brown sugar
穀類	コクルイ	Cereals
ココナッツ	ココヤシ	Coconut
コショウ	ペパー	Pepper
コスタス		Costus
コストマリー		Costmary
コバイバ		Copaiba
コブシ	ヤマモクレン	Kobushi
コリアンダー	コエンドロ	Coriander
コルツフート	フキタンポポ	Coltsfoot
コロombo		Colombo
根菜	コンサイ	Root and tuber vegetables
コンズランゴ		Kondurango
コンフリー		Comfrey
コンブ		Kombu kelp
ゴールドデンロッド		Golden rod
ゴシュユ		Goshuyu
ゴボウ		Burdock
ゴマ	セサミ	Sesame

基原物質名	別 名	備 考
サッサfras		Sassafras
サーチ		Sea buckthorn
サイプレス	シプレス、イトスギ	Cypress
魚	フィッシュ	Fish
サクラ		Cherry tree
サクランボ	チェリー	Cherry
酒粕	サケカス	Pressed sake cake
ササ		Sasa, Bamboo grass
ササクサ		Sasakusa
サフラン		Saffron
サボテン		Cactus
サボジラ		Sapodilla
サラシナショウマ		Sarashinashoma
サルサパリラ		Sarsaparilla
サルシファイ	セイヨウゴボウ	Salsify
サルソシカケ		Sarunokoshikake
サンザシ	ハウソーン	Hawthorn
サンシュユ		Sanshuyu
サンショウ		Japanese pepper
サンタハーブ		Santa herb
サンダラック		Sandarac
サンドルウッド	ビャクダン	Sandalwood
サンドルレッド	シタン	Red sandalwood
ザクロ	グレナデイン	Common pomegranate
シャクヤク		Shakuyaku, Chinese peony
シャロット		Shallot
シュクシャ		Shukusha
ショウガ	ジンジャー	Ginger
ショウユ		Soy sauce

消食表第 377 号
平成 22 年 10 月 20 日

都道府県知事
各 保健所設置市長 殿
特別区長

消費者庁

食品衛生法に基づく添加物の表示等について

食品衛生法施行規則の一部を改正する省令(平成22年厚生労働省令第113号)及び食品、添加物等の規格基準の一部を改正する件(平成22年厚生労働省告示第372号)が本日公布され、これにより食品衛生法施行規則(昭和23年厚生省令第23号。以下「規則」という。)及び食品、添加物等の規格基準(昭和34年厚生省告示第370号)の一部が改正されたところである。

これに伴い、「食品衛生法に基づく添加物の表示等について」(平成8年5月23日付け衛化第56号厚生省生活衛生局長通知。以下旧通知という。)を別添のとおり変更し、新たに通知を発出するものである。

なお、本通知の制定に伴い、旧通知は廃止する。

記

1 制度の概要 (略)

2 運用上の留意事項

(1)食品に係る表示について

①物質名表示関係

ア～ウ

エ 食品衛生法第4条第3項に規定する天然香料(以下「天然香料」という。)の物質名の表示は、別添2に掲げる基原物質名又は別名により行うものであること。

オ (略)

カ 別添2及び別添3に記載のない天然香料及び一般飲食物添加物の物質名の表示は、当該添加物であることが特定できる科学的に適切な名称をもって表示するものであること。

キ (略)

②・③ (略)

(2)・(3) (略)

別添2

天然香料基原物質リスト

平成 22 年 10 月 20 日 消食表第 377 号 消費者庁次長通知「食品衛生法に基づく添加物の表示等について」別添2

基原物質名	別 名	備 考
アイスランドモス	アイスランド苔	Iceland moss
(略)	(略)	(略)
サクラ		Cherry tree
(略)	(略)	(略)

<English translation>

Consumer Affairs Agency Food Labelling No. 377

October 20, 2010

Prefectural Governors
To Mayors of Health Center Establishment
Heads of Special Wards

Consumer Affairs Agency of Japan

Labeling of additives, etc. based on the Food Sanitation Law

The Ministerial Ordinance Partially Amending the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Food Sanitation Act (Ministerial Ordinance No. 113 of 2010 of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) and the Ministerial Ordinance Partially Amending Standards for Food, Additives, etc. (Notification No. 372 of 2010 of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) were promulgated today. And, Food Sanitation Law Enforcement Regulations (1948, Ministry of Health and Welfare Ordinance No. 23) and the Standards for Foods, Additives, etc. (Notification No. 370 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, 1959) have just been partially revised.

In accordance with this revision, the Labeling of Additives, etc. under the Food Sanitation Law (Notification of the Director-General of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Health and Welfare, No. 56, dated May 23, 1996, hereinafter referred to as the "Former Notification") has been partially revised and a new notice has been issued.

With the enactment of this notice, the former notice is repealed.

Text

1 Outline of the System (Omitted)

2 Operational Considerations

(1) Labeling of food products

(A) Substance Name Labeling

(a) – (c) (Omitted)

(d) Natural flavoring agents prescribed in Article 4, paragraph (3) of the Food Sanitation Law (hereinafter referred to as "natural flavoring agents") shall be labeled by the name of the base substance or another name listed in Attachment 2.

(e) (Omitted)

(f) The labeling of the substance names of natural flavoring agents and general food and beverage additives not listed in Attachment 2 and Attachment 3 shall be labeled with scientifically appropriate names that identify them as such additives.

(k) (Omitted)

(B) and (C) (Omitted)

(2)•(3) (Omitted)

Attachment 2.

List of Natural Fragrance Substances

October 20, 2010, Consumer Affairs Agency Food Labelling No. 377, Notification of the Deputy Director-General of the Consumer Affairs Agency, "Labeling, etc. of additives based on the Food Sanitation Law," Attachment 2.

Substrate name	Other Name	Remarks
Iceland moss (Cetraria islandica)	Iceland moss (Cetraria islandica)	Iceland moss
(Omitted)	(Abbreviations.)	(Abbreviations.)
Cherry tree		Cherry tree
(Omitted)	(Abbreviations.)	(Abbreviations.)



References

Latin Name	Prunus lannesiana
English Name	Cherry tree
Updated	2023-08-11

Countries		References	Remarks
IOFI	GRL		
Japan	yes (Cherry tree)		



More Information

Latin Name	Prunus lannesiana
Latin Name (long)	Prunus lannesiana (Carrière) E.H.Wilson
English Name	Cherry tree
Other English Names	
Other Latin Names	
Part of Plant	Branches; Leaves; fruits; (dried);
Updated	2023-08-11



International Organization
of the Flavor Industry

IOFI Regulatory Database

Natural Complex Substances

Citations

Latin Name	Prunus lannesiana
English Name	Cherry tree
Updated	2023-08-11

Description

Remark



References

Latin Name	Prunus serrulata
English Name	Japanese Cherry
Updated	2023-12-18

Countries	References	Remarks
IOFI FEMA	GRL 5044; 5045	5044 (flower extract); 5045 (flower distillate)



More Information

Latin Name	Prunus serrulata
Latin Name (long)	Prunus serrulata Lindl.
English Name	Japanese Cherry
Other English Names	Sakura
Other Latin Names	Cerasus serrulata (Lindl.) Loudon
Part of Plant	flowers
Updated	2023-12-18



IOFI Regulatory Database

Natural Complex Substances

Citations

Latin Name	Prunus serrulata
English Name	Japanese Cherry
Updated	2023-12-18

Description

Remark