

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2025)

In its report on the need for re-evaluation of the safety of hexane used as an extraction solvent in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients issued on 13 September 2024¹, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) did not identify any immediate health concern linked to the oral exposure to hexane.

However, EFSA concluded that there is a need for a re-evaluation of the safety of the use of hexane in light of recent publications, which report new information on the effects of n-hexane and its metabolites, and as the information assessed in the past² is no longer considered sufficient to adequately conclude on the risk of hexane.

In line with this conclusion, the Commission intends to request EFSA to conduct a new full safety re-evaluation of hexane. The Commission will take, when necessary, appropriate risk management measures based on the full safety re-evaluation of hexane once it is available, keeping health and safety as its main guiding principles.

¹ <https://doi.org/10.2903/sp.efsa.2024.EN-9001>

² SCF (Scientific Committee for Food), 1996. Reports of the Scientific Committee for Food. 35th series. Hexane used as an extraction solvent. Opinion expressed on 17 June 1994. Available online: https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ff57e43e-a6ef-49dc-a79f-d4b74da7f0d9_en?filename=sci-com_scf_reports_35.pdf