

January 5, 2007

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Request for Comments
Docket No. 2002P-0122

The International Food Additives Council (IFAC) is an association representing a broad range of food ingredient manufacturers, including major suppliers of microbial cultures for use in foods and beverages and producers of high purity substances used as food additives.

IFAC is pleased that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is publicly addressing "Functional Foods" and agrees with the FDA and others that current regulations for food additives, GRAS substances and labeling claims are sufficient to regulate products referred to as "functional foods." The agency now has adequate authority to address these foods. All foods and beverages are "functional," contain functional ingredients, and may bear structure/function and health claims when applicable and substantiated.

There appears to be some confusion, however, that health or structure/function claims may be limited to claims about the effects that derive from taste, aroma and nutritive value, defined as "a value in sustaining human existence by such processes as promoting growth, replacing lost nutrients, or providing energy." There appears to be consensus that this definition is too restrictive and should be expanded to include ingredients and food products that provided physical and physiological effects. Such products are beneficial to and desired by consumers. While, we understand that FDA considers their interpretation of "nutritive value" to be broad and the phrase "promoting growth" may encompass physical and physiological effects, clarification that nutritive value encompasses products providing physical and physiological effects and appropriate claims may be made for such products may be needed to reduce the confusion in the marketplace.

IFAC urges the FDA to broaden and clarify its definition of nutritive value to encompass benefits provided by a food substance through its physical and physiological effects in order to allow for claims associated with such benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

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President