

Memorandum

Date: July 9, 2024

From: Leah D. Proffitt, Biologist, Environmental Team, Division of Science and Technology (HFS-255)

Subject: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Food Contact Substance Notification (FCN) 2368

Notifier: Beijing PhaBuilder Biotechnology Co., Ltd.

To: Vivian Gilliam, Consumer Safety Officer, Division of Food Contact Substances (HFS-275)

Through: Mariellen Pfeil, Lead Biologist, Environmental Team, Office of Food Additive Safety (HFS-255)

Mariellen Pfeil -S Digitally signed by Mariellen Pfeil -S
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Attached is the FONSI for FCN 2368 which explains how the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has met the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this FCN. FCN 2368 is for the use of butanoic acid, 3-hydroxy-, (3R), polymer with 4-hydroxybutanoic acid (CAS Reg. No. 125495-90-1) and butanoic acid, 3-hydroxy-,(3R), homopolymer (CAS Reg. No. 29435-48-1), as a polymer or a component of polymers used in articles that may contact food, except for use in contact with infant formula and human milk.

After this FCN becomes effective, copies of this FONSI and the notifier's environmental assessment (EA), dated May 23, 2024, may be made available to the public. We will post digital transcriptions of the FONSI and the EA on the agency's public website.

Please let us know if there is any change in the identity or use of the food-contact substance.

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Leah D. Proffitt

Attachment: Finding of No Significant Impact

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Food Contact Substance (FCS) Notification (FCN) 2360: submitted by Beijing PhaBuilder Biotechnology Co., Ltd., for the safe use of butanoic acid, 3-hydroxy-, (3R), polymer with 4-hydroxybutanoic acid (CAS Reg. No. 125495-90-1) and butanoic acid, 3-hydroxy-,(3R), homopolymer (CAS Reg. No. 29435-48-1), as a polymer or a component of polymers used in articles that may contact food, except for use in contact with infant formula and human milk.

The Office of Food Additive Safety has determined that allowing this notification to become effective will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This finding is based on information submitted by the notifier in an environmental assessment (EA) dated May 23, 2024. The EA was prepared in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40. The EA is incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact and is briefly summarized below.

The FCS may contain up to 16 weight percent units derived from 4-hydroxybutanoic acid (4HB). The FCS will be used in contact with all food types except those containing more than 15% alcohol, under Conditions of Use B through H, as described in Tables 1 and 2. The FCS is not for use in contact with infant formula and human milk. Such uses were not included as part of the intended use of the substance in the FCN.

Items manufactured with the FCS are expected to be land disposed or combusted proportionately with disposal patterns described in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) report "Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Tables and Figures." Discarded items will go to landfills or municipal solid waste (MSW) combustion facilities complying with 40 CFR Parts 258 and 60, respectively. The FCS is expected to compete with, and to some extent replace similar substances already on the market, and items containing the FCS will be disposed similarly to those it replaces. Therefore, there will be no anticipated impact on current or future recycling programs. The FCS will not significantly alter the emissions from properly operating MSW combustion facilities, and incineration of the FCS will not cause these facilities to threaten a violation of applicable emissions laws and regulations at 40 CFR Part 60 and/or relevant state and local laws.

Total annual emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) resulting from disposal of items containing the FCS, are expected to be below the 25,000 mT GHG reporting threshold described in 40 CFR 98.2. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected from incineration of the FCS at MSW combustion facilities.

Use of the FCS is not expected to result in a net increase in the use of energy and resources, because it is expected to replace, to a certain extent, other substances already in use. Manufacture of the FCS and its fabrication in food-contact articles will consume energy and resources in amounts comparable to the manufacture and use of materials already in use.

No significant environmental impacts are expected from use and disposal of the FCS; therefore, mitigation measures have not been identified. The alternative of not allowing the FCN to become effective would be the continued use of the materials that the subject FCS would otherwise replace; such action would have no significant environmental impact.

Consequently, we find that use of the FCS as a polymer or a component of polymers used in articles that may contact food will not cause significant adverse impacts on the human environment. Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared.

Prepared by

Leah D. Proffitt -S

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Biologist, Environmental Team
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Food and Drug Administration

Approved by

Mariellen Pfeil -S

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