

Memorandum

Date: July 10, 2026

From: Antonetta Thompson-Wood, Physical Scientist, Environmental Review Team, Office of Pre-Market Additive Safety

To: Joshua Moskowitz, Ph.D., Biologist, Innovative Foods Staff

Subject: Finding No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Food Contact Notification (FCN) 2512

Notifier: Kelp Industries Ltd.

Through: Mariellen Pfeil, Supervisory Biologist, Environmental Review Team, Office of Pre-Market Additive Safety

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Date: 2026.07.10 10:43:19 -0400

Attached is the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Food Contact Substance Notification (FCN) 2512, which is for the use of agar palmitate (CAS Reg. No. 54991-18-3) as a coating for paper and paperboard.

This FONSI explains how the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has met the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this FCN.

After this notification becomes effective, copies of this FONSI, and the notifier's environmental assessment (EA) dated February 12, 2026, 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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Attachment: FONSI

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Proposed Action: Food Contact Substance Notification (FCN) 2512, submitted by Kelp Industries Ltd. for the use of agar palmitate (CAS Reg. No. 54991-18-3) as a coating for paper and paperboard. Articles containing the FCS may contact all foods under Conditions of Use E through G, 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.

The Office of Pre-Market 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 February 12, 2026. The EA was prepared in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40. The EA is incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and is briefly summarized below.

The FCS coating provides desirable barrier properties for the paper, including resistance to water, moisture, and grease/oil. Examples of applications in which the FCS coating will be used may include sachets, pouches, bottles, trays, bags, and cartons.

Finished food-contact articles containing the FCS will be utilized in patterns corresponding to the population density and will be widely distributed across the country. Disposal, recycling, and combustion rates of food contact articles manufactured with the FCS will correspond with The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures 2018¹.

No significant environmental release is expected upon the use of materials containing the FCS. The FCS is expected to be entirely incorporated into finished articles and will remain with the finished food-contact articles throughout the use and disposal. Any waste materials generated in this process, e.g. plant scraps, are expected to be disposed of as part of the finished article manufacturer's overall non-hazardous solid waste in accordance with established.

For food-contact articles that contain the FCS that are determined to be recyclable, we anticipate that recycling processes will not be impacted as coated paper and paperboard are routinely recycled. Additionally, recycling processes will compete with conventional rubbish disposal and, therefore, reduce the amount of the FCS that is landfilled or incinerated.

Post-consumer disposal of food-contact articles containing the FCS will be via landfill or incineration at municipal waste combustors (MWCs) complying with 40 CFR Parts 258 and 60, respectively. Due to EPA's regulations governing landfills at 40 CFR Part 258, leaching into the environment by food-contact articles manufactured with the FCS is not anticipated. Further, because of the regulations at 40 CFR Part 60, and others, no significant impacts are expected from incineration of the FCS at MWCs. No significant impact on the concentrations of and exposures to any substances in air, water, or soil are anticipated. Thus, the use of the FCS as proposed is not expected to result in significant environmental impacts.

¹ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-11/documents/2018_ff_fact_sheet.pdf

Manufacture of the FCS will consume energy and resources in amounts comparable to the manufacture and use of chemically related substances now on the market. Articles containing the FCS are expected to be disposed of according to the same patterns when used in place of current similar coating polymers that are already on the market for use in the same or similar applications. Therefore, no net increase in the use of energy and resources from the use and disposal of food-contact articles manufactured with the FCS is expected.

No mitigation measures are needed since no significant adverse environmental effects are expected from use and disposal of food-contact articles manufactured with the FCS, nor do we expect significant environmental impacts, which would necessitate alternative actions to those proposed in this FCN. The alternative to not allowing the FCN to become effective would be continued use of materials that the FCS would otherwise replace; therefore, this action would have no significant environmental impact.

As evaluated in the EA, the proposed use of the FCS as described in FCN 2512 is not expected to significantly affect the human environment; therefore, an EIS will not be prepared.

Prepared by

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Approved by

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