

2020-08-27 ChemMeta release

Release overview

Comprehensive coverage of food additives now available!

- Thousands of substances and chemicals are added to processed food; few of these have undergone a formal safety evaluation
- ChemMeta now tracks the science investigating 3,502 food additives permitted for use in the United States
- Check out the more than 500 hypotheses of bodily injury associated with exposure to food additives ChemMeta has identified thus far

Food additives

With this release, ChemMeta now includes all food additives permitted for use in the United States. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) defines a food additive as any substance that is reasonably expected to become a component of food. All food additives are subject to premarket approval by FDA, unless the substance is "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) given its intended use or meets other criteria specified in the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

ChemMeta obtains its inventory of food additives from two sources: (1) food additives granted GRAS status or listed in "GRAS Notices" and (2) food additives listed in FDA's "Substances Added to Food" database. The list of GRAS food additives comes from "GRAS Reports," which report the results of expert panel reviews mostly conducted in the 1970s, and the database of "GRAS Notices" that has replaced the report system. The GRAS Notice system allows food manufacturers to notify FDA that they are using a new ingredient that they have determined to be GRAS by one or more accepted regulatory pathways. Many substances included in FDA's "[Substances Added to Food](#)" database have not been granted GRAS status, but are permitted for use in the United States nonetheless.

Users can access ChemMeta food additive content by selecting "Food Additives" in the top right hand corner of any ChemMeta page (1). As of this release, there are 3,502 food additives in the ChemMeta inventory. ChemMeta has identified 518 hypotheses of bodily injury for 349 food additives within this inventory. The remaining food additives in the inventory have "no relevant literature" investigating hypotheses of bodily injury at this time.

