



Labelling of wheat starch derivatives

Changes in the EU labelling legislation

Presentation by the AAC

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The AAC members

- **Altia Corporation**
- **Agrana**
- **Amylum Group**
- **Avebe Group**
- **Cerestar/Cargill**
- **Copam**
- **Crespel & Deiters**
- **Emsland Stärke**
- **Jäckering**
- **Kröner**
- **National Starch**
- **Finnsugar**
- **Pfeifer & Langen/Chamtor**
- **Raisio**
- **Remy Industries**
- **Roquette Frères**
- **Syral**



Labelling of wheat starch derivatives

- ➔ The new EU labelling rules
- ➔ Their impact on the labelling of wheat starch derivatives
- ➔ The timetable of implementation
- ➔ The possibility for exemptions
- ➔ AAC recommendation to its customers



Why new EU labelling rules?

- ➔ Improved information to consumers
- ➔ Specific labelling of the main food allergens and all their derivatives.



Why specific labelling for wheat starch derivatives

The revised EU labelling Directive covers cereals containing gluten and all the products derived from them

➔ Wheat is one of the cereals containing gluten

⇒ wheat and all products made from wheat are concerned by the specific labelling rules.

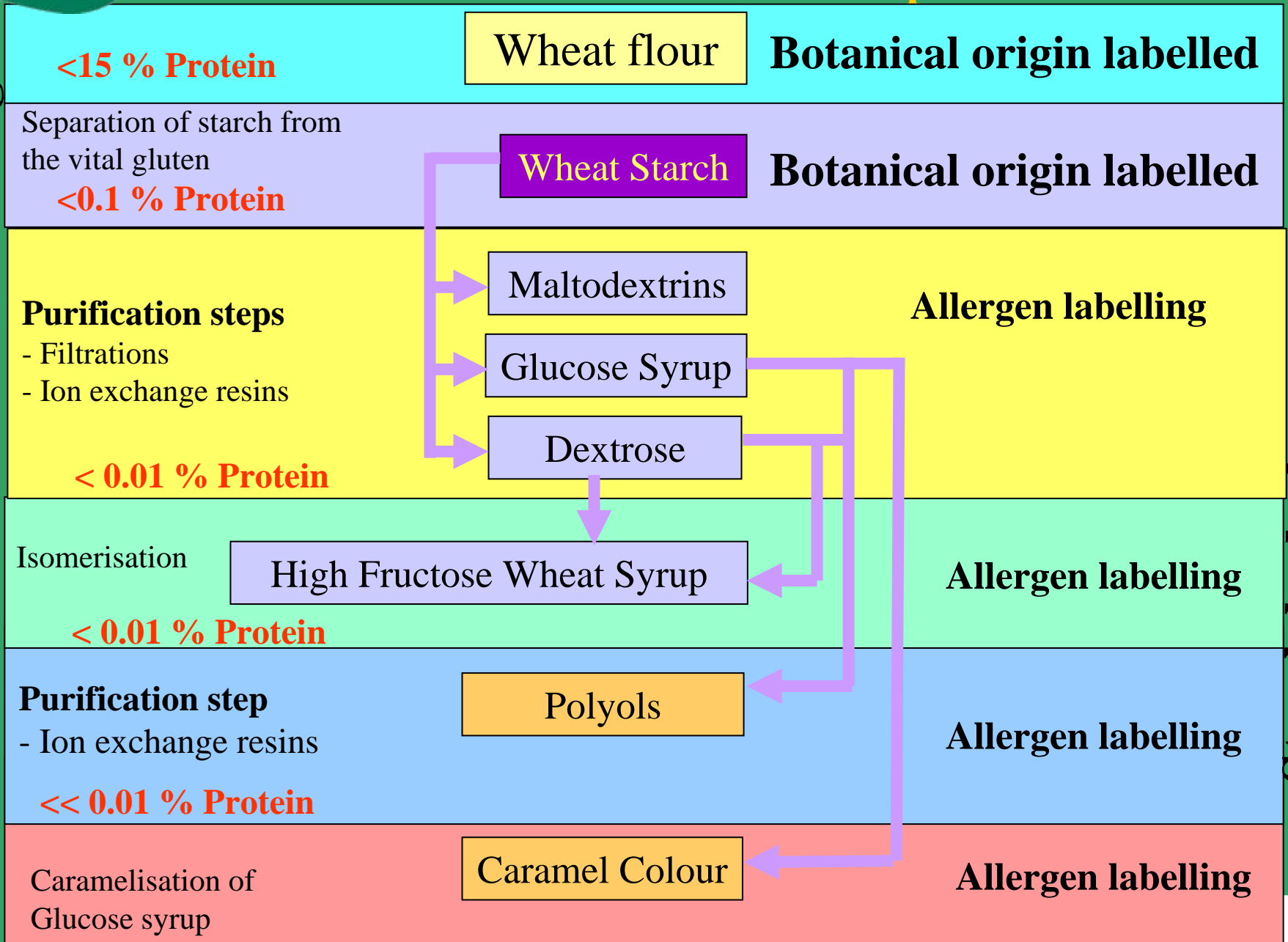
The Commission did not initially take into account that extensive refining occurs in the starch production process

⇒ all starch derived products, including very refined products are covered by the new “allergen labelling” rules.



Refining technologies used to produce starch hydrolysates lead to the removal of the proteins

Technologies used for the refining



Starch hydrolysates



Starch derivatives covered by the “allergen labelling” rules

- ➔ Glucose syrups, maltodextrins, dextrose ...
- ➔ Sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, erythritol ...
- ➔ Gluconates and lactates, lactic acid, citric acid and sodium citrate, acetic acid, ascorbic acid, gluconic acid and glucono-delta-lactone, ethanol, lysine, monosodium glutamate, xanthan ...
- ➔ Caramel colour, bêta-cyclodextrin, sodium erythorbate, sorbitan esters, fatty acid esters of ascorbic acid ...



Starch hydrolysates are found in more than 50 % of the European processed food



Confectionery & chocolates

Dietetic preparations & Baby foods



Ice cream & dairy products

Meat products



Baked goods

Frozen Foods



Jams & preserved foods

Instant foods



Flavour carriers & colours

Beverages





Who is concerned by the “allergen labelling” of wheat starch derivatives?

- ➔ Coeliac patients, who are intolerant to wheat gluten
- ➔ Maybe consumers with an allergy to wheat
(it is not yet clear if wheat allergy needs to be considered in the context of the Directive)



Current labelling rules for wheat starch and wheat starch derivatives

Wheat starch

➔ "wheat starch"

Modified wheat starch

➔ "modified wheat starch"

Wheat starch derivatives – maltodextrin, glucose syrup, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, caramel colour, citric acid ...

➔ "maltodextrin", "glucose syrup", "dextrose", etc.

Wheat proteins

➔ "wheat proteins", "vegetables proteins", "gluten"

Carry-over additives, processing aids, carriers of additives or flavour derived from wheat

➔ no labelling required



New labelling rules for wheat starch products if no exemption is granted

Wheat starch

➔ "wheat starch"

Modified wheat starch

➔ "modified wheat starch"

Wheat starch derivatives – maltodextrin, glucose syrup, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, caramel colour, citric acid ...

➔ "wheat maltodextrin", "wheat glucose syrup", etc.

Wheat proteins

➔ "wheat proteins", "wheat gluten"

Carry-over additives, processing aids, carriers of additives or flavour derived from wheat

➔ will have to be mentioned on the label, with their wheat origin as if additives, e.g. "modified starch" for starch octenyl succinate used as encapsulating agent in flavours.



Impact of the “allergen labelling” rules on wheat starch derivatives

- ➔ Consumers with a coeliac/allergy problem will avoid/stop eating products containing wheat starch derivatives, even though they now consume them safely
- ➔ The food industry will lose the flexibility of alternating the use of starch derivatives made from wheat or maize – or will have to constantly adapt its labels.



Implementation of the new “allergen labelling” rules – Timetable –

- ➔ Publication of the new Directive is expected Nov/Dec 2003
- ➔ Implementation of the Directive in Nov/Dec 2004
- ➔ Nov/Dec 2005 → sales of products not complying with the Directive prohibited except if on the market or labelled before Nov/Dec 2005 - until full utilisation of stocks.



Exemption from the “allergen labelling” rules

The Commission has recognised the need to grant exemptions

- ➔ If it is scientifically demonstrated that some of the products covered by the new Directive cannot cause adverse reactions in consumers
 - ⇒ these products will be exempted from the “allergen labelling” rules.



Exemption from the “allergen labelling” rules (cont’d)

- ➔ A provisional exemption can be granted if it is shown that studies are carried out to demonstrate that an ingredient is not likely to trigger adverse reactions
- ➔ A permanent exemption will be granted if the studies do actually conclude that this ingredient can be safely consumed by coeliac and/or allergic people.



Industry action to exempt wheat starch derivatives from “allergen labelling”

The AAC has started building a scientific file to obtain an exemption for wheat starch derivatives

- ⇒ It will notify these studies to the Commission and is confident that it will obtain a provisional exemption (Nov/Dec 2004)

The AAC is also confident that it will bring scientific evidence showing that wheat starch derivatives can be consumed safely by all consumers

- ⇒ In this case it will obtain a permanent exemption for all wheat starch derivatives (by Nov/Dec 2007).



Summary of new labelling situation

➔ Wheat starch derivatives

⇒ no need to indicate the wheat origin until end 2005 at the earliest

➔ Native and modified wheat starches

⇒ require indication of the wheat origin, as it is currently the case

➔ Wheat proteins

⇒ indication of the wheat origin becomes mandatory