

**Advice 04-2014 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of a request for exemption from use of potable water for the production of a food ingredient**

The Scientific Committee has assessed a request for exemption from use of potable water for the production of a food ingredient.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that a new study should be conducted about the effectiveness of purification of the intermediate product. This study should be extended to residues from currently used pesticides and to residues used in the production of the main raw material but also to other contaminants.

The Scientific Committee does not wish to wait for the results of this study and recommends already to add a purification step of the surface water to the production process, before this water is used in the production process.

The addition of this phase would indeed i) eliminate more efficiently pollution peaks that occur in this surface water and ii) better ensure the safety of byproducts to feed. The addition of such a purification step is also in the spirit of the EU legislation (Regulation (EC) N° 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs) which requires the use of at least clean water (= not containing micro-organisms or harmful substances in quantities capable of directly or indirectly affecting the health quality of food) for the production of foodstuffs.

The effectiveness of the purification of this surface water will naturally also have to be checked and the frequency of renewal of filters should be determined on the basis of a 'worst - case' scenario. It is implied here that a compound may be frequently present or may appear in high concentration, whereby the probability is less that it will be effectively retained by the filter.