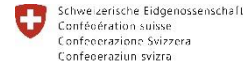




Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture  
et du Développement rural



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
Federal Food Safety and  
Veterinary Office FSVO

24<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

## Press release

# THE NUTRI-SCORE ALGORITHM EVOLVES TO PROMOTE HEALTHIER FOOD CHOICES

As part of the transnational governance of the Nutri-Score, the steering committee - including competent authorities from Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland - finalized the process of revising its algorithm. The recommendations of the scientific committee for beverages have been adopted on March 30, 2023. Finland, observer in the governance, has also expressed its strong support to the science-based evolutions of the Nutri-Score-algorithm. The updated algorithm will reinforce the effectiveness of the Nutri-Score in classifying food and beverages in line with the main food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) of European countries and guide consumers towards informed choices that promote better health. The competent authorities will pay specific attention to supporting the industry and consumers in the process of the evolution of the Nutri-Score-algorithm.

### New evolutions of the Nutri-Score-algorithm for beverages

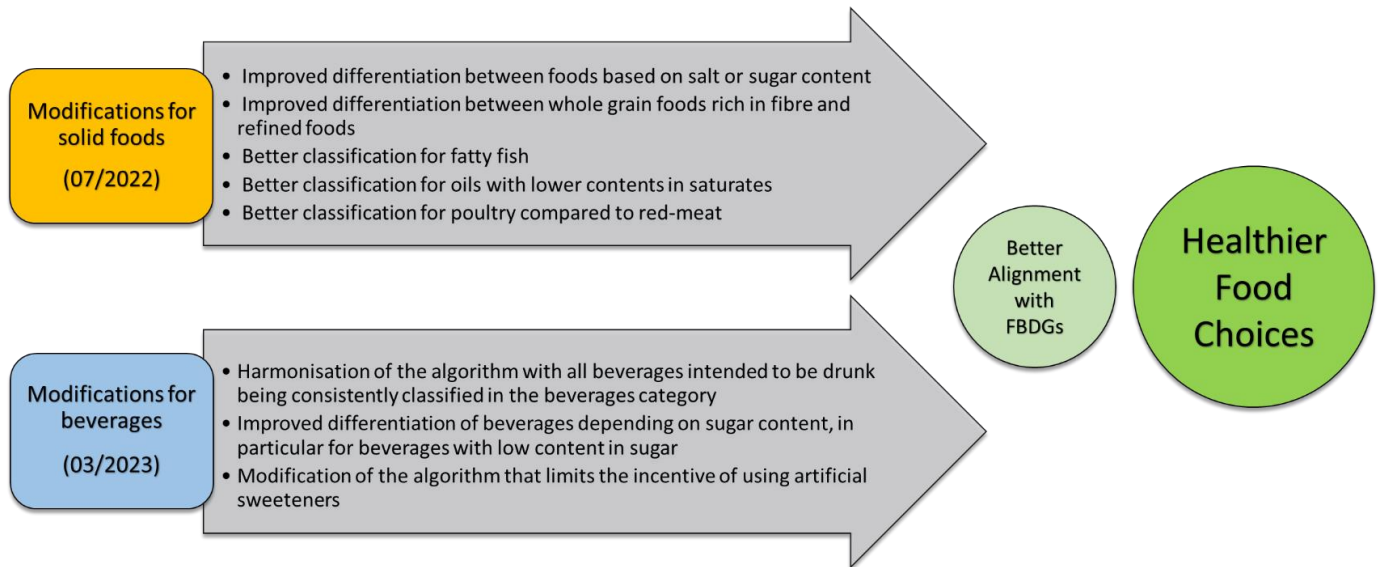
After the adoption in July 2022 of the evolutions of the Nutri-Score for solid foods, the scientific committee recommends in its [recent report](#) modifications to the algorithm for beverages based on strong scientific evidence and stakeholder requests. These changes are in line with the major public health issues. The evolutions for beverages will allow the following main objectives to be achieved in better consistency with the FBDGs:

1. Harmonisation of the algorithm with all beverages intended to be drunk being consistently classified in the beverages category. Consequently, **milk, milk-based** and **plant-based beverages** are included in this algorithm while ensuring a classification of skimmed and partially-skimmed milk in healthier classes, allowing a differentiation between types of milk based on fat content and their differentiation from sweetened milk beverages.
2. Maintain the exclusive position of **water** –being the only beverage recommended by international bodies - as the sole beverage with an A-classification.
3. **Better differentiate the nutritional composition** of beverages depending on sugar content, in particular for beverages with low content in sugar and modify the algorithm in order to limit incentive of using artificial sweeteners by food industry to improve the Nutri-Score of beverages.
4. Maintain an overall similar classification of **fruit juices** and **nectars** (including smoothies) compared to the original algorithm, which has been considered adequate by experts in lights of scientific literature.

### An efficient calculation algorithm adapted to the different European countries

Based on the recommendations of the scientific committee and following the adoption of the two reports by the steering committee, an updated algorithm will be implemented, based on a robust independent expertise process that will increase the effectiveness of the system in classifying food products in line with the main FBDGs of the various European countries.

The evolutions of the Nutri-Score will reinforce its ability to help consumers, including vulnerable populations, to compare the nutritional composition of foods and beverages. Thus, the Nutri-Score supports healthier choices, in synergy with nutrition policies aimed at preventing chronic diseases.



#### **Next steps for the updated algorithm deployment**

The countries that have already implemented the Nutri-Score can now start their national procedure to formally adopt the updated algorithm. In order to ensure consistency between the different territories, the countries have agreed on a coordinated implementation of the new algorithm once the regulatory procedures have been finalized in the countries by the end of 2023. After which a two-year period will start to allow operators to adapt the Nutri-Score on their products. The evolutions of the algorithm for solid food and beverages will be added in the Nutri-Score Conditions of Use. Both, the report itself and the Conditions of Use are also published today, so interested operators can start preparing the adaptations already. In addition, the Nutri-Score-Frequently Asked Questions and the Excel-calculation sheet are also currently under revision by the countries involved and will be available in a timely manner, before summer. In order to facilitate this deployment, support for operators will be provided by competent authorities in the various countries involved and specific communication will be made to explain the evolutions and accompany consumers.