

This opinion is that of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed and has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. The views may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission. This opinion is intended to assist national authorities in the application of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives. Only the Court of Justice of the European Union is competent to authoritatively interpret Union law.

**OPINION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED TO
ACHIEVE A HARMONISED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU LEGISLATION**

Subject: Authorised forms of E270 lactic acid

Lactic acid (E 270) is included in the Union lists of authorised food additives in Annex II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008. Specifications are laid down in Regulation (EU) No 231/2012. A question was raised as regards what forms of the optical isomers are covered by the applicable specifications.

On 17 September 2018 the Standing Committee endorsed unanimously the following:

EINECS (200-018-0) included in the specifications for E 270 laid down in Regulation (EU) No 231/2012 does not refer to any particular optical isomer but just to lactic acid (unspecified). The understanding of the Committee is that this reference covers optical isomers L-(+)-lactic acid, D-(-)-lactic acid as well as DL lactic acid.

The Committee noted that the provisions laid down in Part E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 restrict for certain foods (e.g. infant formulae) the use to L-(+)-form only. For other foods, for which no such restriction is indicated, all forms (i.e. L-(+), D-(-) and DL) may be used.