

## **Strict limits for aromatic mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOAH) approaching**

### **Nutriswiss edible oils already exceed the future purity standard**

**Lyss/Switzerland, October 2022 – As a result of its own sourcing and innovative processes, Nutriswiss, the Swiss market leader for speciality and organic edible oils, already converts contaminated oils into safe food. In-house laboratory analyses show MOAH values close to the detection limit after refining. After alarming investigation results published by the non-profit organization Foodwatch<sup>1</sup>, the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed has defined a level at which foods should be withdrawn from the market. The guidance values are expected to be transferred into applicable limits by the member states from 2023.**

For oils and fats, the EU Committee specifies a MOAH guidance value of 2 mg/kg. In addition, it sets an MOAH value of 0.5 mg/kg for dry foods with a low fat/oil content (up to 4%) and up to 1 mg/kg for foods with a higher fat/oil content (more than 4%).<sup>2</sup> Several scientific studies indicate that aromatic mineral oils are potentially carcinogenic and mutagenic.<sup>3,4</sup>

MOAH in edible oils such as rapeseed or palm can originate from different places, such as tire abrasion, exhaust gases or machine oil. In the Nutriswiss laboratory, a comprehensive key figure profile is created for each oil before, during and after processing. This clearly shows that the self-sourced materials are significantly less contaminated on arrival at the plant than standard market goods, which is also reflected in the MOAH values. In supply chain management, Nutriswiss relies on long-term contractual partners, logistics in ISO containers according to food grade standards, and its own controls to ensure the highest raw material quality.

### **Gentle refining**

For the removal of MOAH, Nutriswiss does not use time- and temperature-intensive processes. Instead, the experts rely on physical treatment using modern distillation technology followed by mild

deodorization. In this way, the formation of process contaminants is prevented, whereas MOSH/MOAH, pesticides, polycyclic hydrocarbons (PAH) and plasticizers such as DEHP are significantly reduced. Michel Burla, CEO of Nutriswiss, says: "A fixed limit value for MOAH is long overdue because contaminants have no place in any food. The EU guideline values now provide the political framework that we already adhere to on a voluntary basis. Regardless of the new regulations, we take our responsibility very seriously; the oils and fats that leave our plant are safe to eat."

**References:**

1. [https://www.foodwatch.org/fileadmin/-INT/mineral\\_oil/documents/Foodwatch\\_Mineraloil\\_Report\\_2021\\_ENGLISH\\_03A.pdf](https://www.foodwatch.org/fileadmin/-INT/mineral_oil/documents/Foodwatch_Mineraloil_Report_2021_ENGLISH_03A.pdf)
2. <https://www.eurofins.de/food-analysis/food-news/food-testing-news/eu-guideline-for-moah-in-foodstuffs/>
3. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/efsajournal/pub/2704>
4. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/supporting/pub/en-1741>

**About Nutriswiss**

Nutriswiss AG specialises in the refining of high-quality, tailor-made edible fats and is the Swiss leader in special and organic products. For national and international food manufacturers, the catering, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries, as well as artisan bakers, crude oils from all over the world are neutralized, bleached, modified by fractionation, transesterification or hydrogenation, mixed and deodorized. At its headquarters in Lyss in the canton of Berne in Switzerland, a total of 90 employees produce around 55,000 tonnes of high-purity edible oils and fats annually, 95 percent of which are of vegetable origin. The sister company Grüninger supplies the national catering trade, food craft and retail trade with special fats and margarines. Nutriswiss, founded in 1879, is part of Centravo Holding.

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