



ASPARTAME-ACESULFAME SALT

Aspartame-acesulfame salt (INS 962, E 962) is a low calorie sweetener containing ionically bound aspartame and acesulfame. On a weight basis aspartame-acesulfame salt consists of 64% aspartame and 36% acesulfame and is approximately 350 times sweeter than sugar.

Upon digestion, aspartame-acesulfame salt dissociates into aspartame and acesulfame. Aspartame is digested and metabolised in the body, acesulfame is not metabolised by the body, but excreted by the kidneys.

At international level, aspartame-acesulfame salt has been evaluated by independent safety experts in the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and by the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) of the European Commission (2000) - now the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

JECFA concluded that the aspartame and acesulfame moieties in aspartame-acesulfame salt are covered by the acceptable daily intake (ADI) values previously established for aspartame and acesulfame-K (respectively 0-40 mg/kg body weight per day for aspartame and 0-15 mg/kg bodyweight per day for acesulfame-K).

The SCF's opinion from 2000 offers a similar conclusion, namely that the aspartame and acesulfame moieties in aspartame-acesulfame salt are covered by the acceptable daily intake (ADI) values previously established for aspartame and acesulfame-K (respectively 0-40 mg/kg body weight per day for aspartame and 0-9 mg/kg bodyweight per day for acesulfame-K).

Aspartame-acesulfame salt is approved for a variety of uses in foods, beverages and tabletop sweeteners in the EU under Annex II of Regulation 1333/2008. It is also approved in the USA, where it falls under the existing regulations on aspartame and acesulfame-K, as well as in Canada, Mexico, China, Russia, Hong-Kong, Australia and New Zealand.