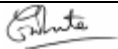


# Savoury Flavours Ltd

The Flavours to Savour

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### **Mycotoxins in spices**

Last year Hungary reported aflatoxin levels in paprika above the EU limits. Consequently, the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) commissioned and have just released the results of a survey of mycotoxins (i.e. aflatoxins and ochratoxin A) in various spices: paprika, chilli powder and cayenne pepper.

1. Aflatoxins - The paprika used by Savoury Flavours is of Spanish origin from a very reputable source with full traceability and with regular testing for Aflatoxins to confirm conformance to the maximum levels allowed by the EU. Following the publication of the FSA survey results, our suppliers of all chilli, cayenne and paprika are now required either to supply certificates of analysis (showing compliance with EU limits) for all consignments delivered to us, or provide details of their testing regime for raw materials that demonstrate that non-compliant materials (whole pods) are rejected before use, and thus finished products must comply with the limits.
2. Ochratoxin A – Our suppliers are monitoring the situation regarding Ochratoxin A very closely – indeed some are part of the group discussing with the EU a workable limiting level of this mycotoxin. Levels of Ochratoxin A are being measured on a regular basis in order to help inform this process. Once a legal limit has been established we shall require certification either by analysis of each batch, or by details of raw material screening in the same way as for aflatoxins.

Background information on this subject can be found on the FSA website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/fsisbranch2005/fsis7305>

We hope this gives you all the information you need, but don't hesitate to contact us if you have any query.

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