

FINLAND

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5. FINLAND**PETROLEUM WAXES
SYNTHETIC HYDROCARBON
WAXES
NATURAL ESTER WAXES**

USAGE : **In/on food** - As component, coating or surface treatment

REGULATIONS

Decisions by the National Board of Trade and Consumer Interests, Helsinki, regarding additives permitted for use in food :

- (a) No. 953/73 dated 20th December 1973
- (b) No. 988 dated 30th october 1979
- (c) No. 2804/51/80 dated 17th June 1980

GENERAL TERMS OF REGULATIONS

Regulation (a) lists additives permitted for each type of foodstuff, and indicates the purpose for which each additive may be used with maximum concentrations in some instances :

Usage	Waxes permitted	Max. concentration limit (where specified)
Cheese coating (i.e. "surface treatment of non-edible rind of cheese)	"Waxes" and also "Paraffin" are quoted as components of protective film, which must meet provisions concerning the composition of packing materials.	None specified.
Chewing gum	<p>The chewing gum base must be in accordance with requirements of the US FDA. FDA Section 172.615 applies and permits as components :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - petroleum waxes complying with 172.886 - synthetic paraffin wax (Fischer-Tropsch) complying with 175.250 - synthetic petroleum wax (from ethylene polymerisation) complying with 172.888 - polyethylene of molecular weight 2.000-21.000 	FDA 172.615 states : "amounts not to exceed those required to produce the intended physical or other technical effect".

Usage	Waxes permitted	Max. concentration limit (where specified)
Chewing gum (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rice bran wax complying with 172.890 - substances generally recognized as safe (GRAS) in food; these are listed in Section 182 which includes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 182.1973 - Beeswax 182.1975 - Bleached beeswax 182.1978 - Carnauba wax 	
<p>Treatment of the skin of imported fresh fruits :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - citrus - apples - pears <p><u>N.B.</u> Fresh fruits which are not imported must not be treated with additives.</p>	<p>"Paraffin" / "Waxes"</p> <p>"Waxes"</p> <p>"Waxes"</p>	<p>"Total 0.6 %"</p> <p>0.6 %</p> <p>0.6 %</p>
<p>Surface treatment of sugar confectionery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for polishing dragées - surface treatment of dragées - for polishing dragées, pastilles, etc., and for surface treatment on cooking vessels for chocolate fillings. 	<p>Carnauba wax and spermaceti</p> <p>"Paraffin oil and wax"</p> <p>Beeswax</p>	<p>Total 0.5 %</p> <p>0.2 %</p> <p>None specified</p>

Regulation (b) states that the purity of additives to be used in foods must comply with the one or other of the following :

- a) the joint recommendations of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) concerning the identity and purity of additives for foodstuffs, or if no such recommendation exists,

- b) the requirements of purity specified in the European Pharmacopoeia, or if no such specifications exist,
- c) requirements issued separately by the Finnish National Board of Trade and Consumer Interests regarding a particular additive.

(Regulation (a) made similar statements concerning purity requirements but with the Pharmacopoeia Nordica instead of the European Pharmacopoeia).

Regulation (c) states that if there are no requirements for purity of a food additive in the FAO/WHO recommendations or the European Pharmacopoeia, then it must comply with :

- arsenic : maximum 5 mg/kg
- heavy metals : maximum 30 mg/kg of which lead may be maximum 10 mg/kg.

(From Regulations (a) and (b) it appears that the above heavy metals limitation is in addition to any other requirements specified separately for the additive).

Antioxidants : Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) are listed in (a) as antioxidants permitted in certain types of food.

Labelling requirements : Regulation (a) gives statutory requirements for labelling packages holding food additives of foods containing additives.

QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The terms of Regulations (a), (b) and (c) apply as appropriate :

- for chewing gum components the respective sections of the US FDA Regulations are valid;
- for other applications the requirements of the FAO/WHO or the European Pharmacopoeia apparently apply; however as at April 1981 there have been no recommendations made by the FAO/WHO for any type of wax or petrolatum, nor have any specifications been included in the European Pharmacopoeia Nordica applies (for details see "Denmark-Pharmacy") but further information on this point is required.

5. FINLAND

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

USAGE : **In contact with food** - In/on food packaging materials

REGULATIONS

(a) Livsmedelsförordning (foodstuffs decree),

- Finland's författningssamling No. 408, 21 November 1952.

(b) Förordning om ändring av livsmedelsförordningen,

- Finland's författningssamling No. 712/1968, 20 December 1968 (Decree regarding modification of the foodstuffs decree).

GENERAL TERMS OF REGULATIONS

Article 16a of decree 408, modified by decree 712, constitutes the regulations controlling all materials used for food packaging; it does not specify detailed requirements for packaging materials, but states general principles as follows :

"For foodstuffs a packaging material may not be used if it is of such a nature as to cause any clearly noticeable foreign taste or smell to pass over to the foodstuff, or if it allows a substance not belonging to the foodstuff to migrate into it to such an extent that the foodstuff must be considered to contain a foreign substance."

5. FINLAND

PETROLEUM WAXES NATURAL ESTER WAXES PETROLATUMS

USAGE : **Pharmacy**

REGULATIONS

In regard to waxes and petrolatums, the Pharmacopoeia Nordica applies.

GENERAL TERMS OF REGULATIONS

The Pharmacopoeia has sections on the following :

- Paraffinum solidum (hard paraffin)
- Cera alba (white beeswax)
- Cera flava (yellow beeswax)
- Cetaceum (spermaceti)
- Vaselinum (yellow petrolatum)
- Vaselinum album (white petrolatum).

For details of the requirements for the above materials, see Section 3 - Denmark.

5. FINLAND**NATURAL ESTER WAXES**
(ADDENDUM)

USAGE : **Pharmacy**

REGULATIONS

The European Pharmacopoeia, 2nd Edition, includes monographs for white beeswax and yellow beeswax; for details refer to Section 19 - European Economic Community - as at August 1987 these are the only sections on waxes in the European Pharmacopoeia although it is understood that a monograph on carnauba wax is to be issued.

The Pharmacopoeia requirements for beeswax in all countries adopting the European Pharmacopoeia are therefore now identical and as given in Section 19; these requirements supersede those of the individual national pharmacopoeias.

It is understood that the following countries have agreed to adopt the requirements of the European Pharmacopoeia, either as original parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia or through subsequent decisions (the European Pharmacopoeia has official status in the laws of the European Economic Community) :

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
EIRE
Finland
France

Germany
Greece
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway

Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom