

Title: Overview of the Italian food additive control and the challenges by the competent authority

Presenting Author Details:

Presenting Author: Name: Monica Scordino, Affiliation: Central Inspectorate for Quality Protection and Anti-Fraud of Agri-Food Products (ICQRF), Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Catania, Italy

Co-Authors: Leonardo Sabatino, Francesco Lazzaro, Marco Antonio Borzì, Pasqualino Traulo, Giacomo Gagliano Affiliation: Central Inspectorate for Quality Protection and Anti-Fraud of Agri-Food Products (ICQRF), Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Catania, Italy

Abstract:

The Central Inspectorate for Quality Protection and Anti-Fraud of Agri-Food Products (ICQRF) is a leading authority in Europe overseeing the safety and integrity of the agri-food sector. With 29 offices across Italy, it works to prevent fraud in various products like food, plant protection items, fertilizers, and seeds, both nationally and internationally. The ICQRF operates six accredited laboratories that conduct thorough checks on thousands of products yearly, ensuring they meet food safety standards.

This work reports an overview of the controls on additives and the related challenges carried out by the ICQRF in recent years. Laboratory's research uncovered the use of unauthorized synthetic red dye amino carminic acid, derived from chemical modification of cochineal; this identification influenced European Food Safety Authority assessments. Dehydroacetic acid, an additive authorized only in cosmetics and not in food, was detected in cheese coating agents from Spanish sources, leading to regulatory actions and alerts. The control of pure food additives has highlighted that the products sold to operators in the agri-food chain often do not correspond to what is indicated on the label. Work on the authenticity of saffron has also detected identified the presence of the yellow dye E102, strengthening consumer safety and market transparency.

Through rigorous regulatory frameworks, scientific methods, and global partnerships, the ICQRF sets high standards in the agri-food sector, ensuring Italian products maintain their integrity domestically and abroad.

Biography:

Monica Scordino is a professional in the field of food science and technology. She earned her degree in Food Science and Technology from the University of Catania and furthered her expertise with two PhDs—one in Food Technology and another in Agricultural Chemistry and Eco-Compatibility. Since 2008, Monica has been a member of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, specifically within the Inspectorate for Quality Control and Anti-Fraud in the Food Sector. In her role as head of a team of analysts, she focuses on food additives. Over the years, she has been committed to the monitoring and regulation of food additives available in the market. Her diligent work has led to the identification of numerous significant international fraud cases, earning her recognition and resulting in several scientific publications.



- Email: m.scordino@masaf.gov.it
- Full Name: Monica Scordino
- University/Organization: Central Inspectorate for Quality Protection and Anti-Fraud of Agri-Food Products (ICQRF), Italian Ministry of Agriculture
- Country: Italy
- Mobile Number: +393286145632
- Session/Track Name: Additives for Food Industry/ Quality Assurance and Control Methods
- Category (Oral/ Poster/ E-poster / Workshop): Poster
- Contact Address: Via Alessandro Volta 19, 95122 Catania (Italy)