

# New Zealand Food Safety

Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

roger  
18 August 2022

Chris  
c/- requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris

My apologies but the correspondence I received does not have your surname, affiliation, or address. Nevertheless, thank you for your enquiry made via the FYI website to the Ministry of Health on Wednesday 27 July 2022 regarding skittles and titanium dioxide.

Your first question *“Is the ministry of health keeping an eye on the skittles lawsuit about Titanium Dioxide.”* will no doubt have been answered by the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health has transferred your question *“Skittles recently banned in Europe. Will New Zealand follow too??”* to New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) to answer we are the regulators of the food system alongside Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). FSANZ is responsible for developing standards in relation to food additives, and these are described in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (FSC). NZFS then implements and enforces these standards.

While titanium dioxide is a colouring (171) permitted under the FSC to be used in foods, and a maximum limit is not specified, FSANZ is reviewing the safety of titanium dioxide as a food additive following the release of the updated safety assessment by the European Food Safety Authority. Mid last year, FSANZ put out a call for data regarding the particle size of titanium dioxide used in food as well as relevant information on its safety as a food additive. They will use this in a comprehensive assessment from which they will release a report when completed. Any potential changes to the FSC and in New Zealand would follow this assessment by FSANZ.

Further information about the FSANZ review can be found in the link below, and on standards relating to additives ([Standard 1.1.2 -11](#)), and [Schedule 16](#) which lists permitted food additives in New Zealand.

<https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/foodtech/Pages/Review-of-titanium-dioxide-as-a-food-additive.aspx>

Regards



Dr Roger Cook  
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**New Zealand Food Safety**