

# FDA to Allow Unlabeled Use of Aspartame in Dairy Products

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March 17, 2013

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Mercola.com, March 13, 2013  
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The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) and the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) have filed a petition with the FDA1 requesting the agency "amend the standard of identity" for milk and 17 other dairy products.

This was done to provide for the use of any safe and suitable sweetener as an optional ingredient – including non-nutritive sweeteners such as aspartame" to deceive you by not having to indicate its use on the label.

It's a move that could endanger your health for decades to come, and disproportionately harm underprivileged children who rely on school lunches for the bulk of their nutrition.

If the amendment goes through, that would mean anytime you see the word "milk" on the label, it could include [aspartame](#), sucralose, or any other dangerous artificial sweetener, but you could never be quite sure, since there will be no mention of it – not by listing the artificial sweetener used, nor with a no- or low-calorie type label, which is a tip-off that the product might contain a non-nutritive sweetener.

The IDFA and NMPF claim the proposed amendments would "promote more healthful eating practices and reduce childhood obesity by providing for lower-calorie flavored milk products" since many children are more inclined to drink flavored milk products than unflavored milk.

According to the Federal Register:

"[T]he proposed amendments would assist in meeting several initiatives aimed at improving the nutrition and health profile of food served in the nation's schools. Those initiatives include state-level programs designed to limit the quantity of sugar served to children during the school day."

As if that's not nonsensical enough, the IDFA and NMPF argue that the proposed amendments would "promote honesty and fair dealing in the marketplace." How could altering the definition of "milk" to include unidentified artificial sweeteners possibly promote honesty or fair dealing in the marketplace, you might ask? Read on...

When One Lie + Another Lie = 'Honesty'

According to the IDFA and NMPF, nutrient content claims such as "reduced calorie" are not attractive to children and have led to an overall decline in milk consumption in schools. Essentially, as with the GMO labeling issue, they don't want you or your child to be "confused" or perhaps "scared away" by truthful labeling...

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