

Press release

Paris, June 15, 2021

Doping prevention A new European standard to ensure food quality and food supplements for athletes

Faced with the absence of regulations at the European level, a collective of 18 countries has mobilized, at the initiative of France, in order to propose a framework of good practices at the European level, to limit the risks of the presence of doping substances in foods and food supplements intended for athletes.

In recent months, the population has been particularly affected in their sporting activities due to the health crisis. In 2020, 65% of French people aged 15 and over practiced at least one physical and sporting activity¹. Furthermore, all federations approved by the Ministry of Sports issued 18.4 million licenses and other participation titles in 2019.²

In accordance with the progressive strategy of reopening establishments and resuming all physical and sporting activities, citizens can find their practice spaces and the way to the roomssport.

Energy bars, recovery drinks, gel pods, powders and mixtures of vitamins and minerals... Many athletes, amateurs or professionals, supplement their diet by using foods and food supplements specially formulated to meet their needs before, during or after the effort.

These athletes need a guarantee as to the quality of these specific products.

A European standard to limit the risks of doping

To face the risks linked to products fraudulently presented as food or food supplements for athletes, European consumers and manufacturers concerned can now rely on the European standard NF EN 17444.

The result of an initiative led by the Ministry of Sports and French manufacturers of sports products for more than 10 years, with the support and scientific expertise of ANSES, this European standard has its origins in a standard French (NF V94-001), [published in 2012](#).

The new NF EN 17444 standard has an ambition: ensure the quality of a European market increasingly confronted with the sale of unreliable products, access to which has been made easier by online purchasing possibilities, particularly from outside Europe.

This standard guides the implementation of good practices for the research, development and manufacturing of foods and food supplements intended for athletes. It also constitutes the tangible outcome of a collaboration between agri-food manufacturers and the parties concerned by the fight against doping.

This standard is based on the health risk control tools implemented for the manufacturing of food and guarantees the absence of doping substances as listed by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

¹National barometer of sports practices 2020, INJEP

²INJEP data

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doping (WADA - World Anti-Doping Agency). It specifies the safety principles to be adopted by manufacturers concerning the skills of personnel involved in the manufacturing process, the quality of ingredients, compliance by suppliers with a series of commitments, control and traceability of processes and products, as well as analysis of the finished product.

A new protective label on consumer products

“This product was developed and manufactured in accordance with the requirements of standard NF EN 17444 on the batch production date. »These are the terms which can now be affixed to their products by manufacturers who have chosen to respect the new standard. This statement will provide consumers with security in choosing products without prohibited substances.

The world of sport, health professionals but also manufacturers of foods and dietary supplements for athletes play a central role in supporting athletes: their products must guarantee healthy performance, respectful of their health and their specific needs.

Learn more: <https://m.boutique.afnor.org/norme/pr-nf-en-17444/prevention-du-doping-dans-le-sportcompléments-alimentaires-et-alimentaires-pour-sportifs-exempts-de-substances-dopants-bonnesprat/article/935139/fa194598>

About AFNOR

AFNOR is the French reference organization for voluntary standards. It manages the collection of existing documents and leads the work of interested parties for the creation and revision of standards and to identify subjects that could provide material for developing new ones. Launched at the initiative of market players, the voluntary standard is a reference framework which aims to provide guidelines, technical or qualitative requirements for products, services or practices serving the general interest. Anyone can participate in its creation and any organization may or may not use and refer to it. This is why the standard is called voluntary. As coordinator of standardization in France, AFNOR has one ambition: to contribute to the dissemination of good practices and effective solutions, for the benefit of all. www.normalisation.afnor.org

About the Dietetic Sector

The Dietetics Sector brings together around twenty companies offering tailor-made solutions to consumers with specific nutritional needs. Around ten of them have developed cutting-edge expertise and are particularly invested in research to support the development of ever more innovative solutions for professional or amateur athletes. The sector aims to promote this know-how and raise awareness among public authorities and health professionals of the needs of these specific populations. It also ensures the proper application of regulatory standards and the dissemination of best practices.

About the National Union of Food Supplements (SYNADIET)

An independent professional union created in 1950, SYNADIET brings together professionals in the food supplement sector in France. With more than 260 members (consultants, manufacturers, processors, ingredient suppliers, distributors, analysis laboratories, etc.), SYNADIET has a unique representative strength in France. It aims to unite and support its members in the exercise of their profession, which is to contribute to improving the health of consumers through the use of food supplements and natural health products, and to engage them in a responsible and transparent approach. .

About ANSES, National Health Security Agency

The National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) provides public decision-makers with the scientific benchmarks necessary to protect human health and the environment against health risks. It studies, evaluates and monitors all chemical, microbiological and physical risks facing

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Men, animals and plants are exposed, and thus helps public authorities take the necessary measures, including in the event of a health crisis. A national agency serving the general interest, ANSES reports to the ministries in charge of health, the environment, agriculture, labor and consumption.

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