



U.S. Pharmacopeia  
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## New Quality Measure for Improved Soybean Oil Proposed

*Comments on Food Chemicals Codex Addition Sought from  
Manufacturers, Others*

**Rockville, Md., July 6, 2009** — A new soybean oil that will improve functionality in food processing and add taste and nutritional value for consumers is the subject of a proposed new standard intended to help ensure the oil's quality once it is incorporated into food production. This standard, for unhydrogenated high-oleic soybean oil, will be included in the *Food Chemicals Codex (FCC)*, a compendium of internationally recognized standards that designates the quality and purity of food ingredients used by food product manufacturers. The U.S. Pharmacopeial (USP) Convention, which publishes the *FCC*, is seeking comments from the food industry as well as all other interested parties.

The proposed standard is included in the latest *FCC Forum*, the mechanism through which USP accepts public comment on standards before the final standard is published in the compendium. The *FCC Forum* is now accessible at [www.usp.org/fcc/forum](http://www.usp.org/fcc/forum). In addition to the standard for unhydrogenated high-oleic soybean oil, the latest *FCC Forum* includes other new standards for important food ingredients, such as the nutrient Sodium Iron EDTA and functional food ingredient Lutein, as well as updates to existing standards.

“Oils are commonly used in food manufacturing, but over time break down during processing,” said James Griffiths, Ph.D., vice president of food, dietary supplement and excipient standards for USP. “Unhydrogenated high-oleic soybean oil is a novel, more stable oil that will not have to be replaced as often by food manufacturers, making it more efficient for production purposes and providing nutritional benefits to the consumer. It's important to note that prior to USP's proposal, no standard in any international food compendium existed that would help assure the product's quality and purity across one batch to the next. This new standard will do just that, supporting the needs of the food industry and consumers by helping to protect food quality.”

The standard will include specifications that will allow manufacturers to establish the identity, quality and purity of this new soybean oil, enabling them to differentiate it from other plant oils.

The proposed standard will be available for public comment through September 30, 2009. After this comment period, USP's Food Ingredients Expert Committee—a group of independent scientific experts—will review all feedback and finalize a standard. This will be included in the *FCC's* Seventh Edition, which will be available in February 2010.

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USP is an independent scientific organization that has been setting chemical standards for close to 200 years. These standards are used in more than 130 countries throughout the world. USP acquired the *FCC* from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 2006. USP released the Sixth Edition of the *FCC*—the first edition published under its direction—in 2008, followed by a supplement in February 2009 and an upcoming supplement in August 2009. The increased frequency of additions and revisions to the *FCC* underscore USP's commitment to helping to ensure food quality.

For more information, visit [www.usp.org](http://www.usp.org) or email [mediarelations@usp.org](mailto:mediarelations@usp.org).

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