



# Managing the issues

We all watch the news and are aware of the review in a major issues of the day economic change or personal. What doesn't make the news is the work behind the scenes to

keep the cogs working. The activity of the HFMA is much the same, where the many Issues we face require ongoing monitoring and action, thus ensuring members feel updated and confident of what needs to be addressed. Whilst this le highlighted at our Working Groups and in Bulletins angoing attention to these issues continues to be integral part of the work of the HFMA team daily. Here is a round-up of some of the key issues we have recently been addressing.

The work on probiotics where the fight to permit the use of the term on labels, continues to be a key policy of HFMA. and for political lobbying to MFs. In May, I met with Steve Reed, UK Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and efforts are in place to now seek follow up meetings with key officials. In the meantime, the UK Tripartite Group of HFMA, CRN and PAGB have resumed mothings to MPs on the torsic

In the regular Government meetings we attend we still hear the authorities discussing proposals that alternative descriptors such as Triendly bactena' should also not be permitted, and we engage at the heart of this debate on behalf of industry, defending against such proposals

HFMA have always maintained that the setting of maximum levels (MPLs) for load supplements is a crucial issue for the future of our industry and to motinization consumer choice. The

in Durope, if adopted here, could be a major threat and therefore the HFMA are actively engaging in its role with the EHPM to achieve a desired outcome in Europe on MPLs.

HFMA actively support EHPM lobbying of the Commission for appropriate scientific models to be adopted and for transparency in the MPL process. This involved unifyin the various EU associations a EHPM.FSE.FDE and ASEGP. and now IADSA, and acreeing alterment of the MPI a model for food supplements to speak with one voice to the Commission As a result, the Commission is now encoging with industry and it is understood that the timetable for implementation of their proposals for setting of maximum levels has now been extended.

Closes to home, in February, DEFRA launched its guidance on Phase 3 of the Windsor Framework with a revised list of Commodity Codes At regular meetings of the Business Expert Group, a coalition of the major UK trade associations, discussions were possible to obtain clarity on the quidelines. This confirmed that on composite products most supplements and composite aupplements which are not based on products of animal origin (POAO) are exempt from Not for EU labelling It also confirmed that POAO classified suppleme

are not exempt. Since 2024, concerns were raised globally over the safety of ashwacondha and many countries have conducted their own reviews. Our Food Standards Agency (FSA) Issued consultations last September and HFMA coordinated data received from members in response This



FSA. The data was also shared with EHPM and is helping to encome with discussions in the Netherlands and Ireland. specifically Such efforts help to clanfy concerns and for adoption of proportionate and appropriate

On Article 8 substances under scruting the UK authorities are now waiting on two risk assessments for green rea catechins and hydroxy anthracene derivatives (HADS) before they consult on their proposals for monacolins in Europe, many of these are facing full bans.

This May saw the Commission warking groups downgrade from a full ban on a pha knoic cold (ALA) to be Under Union Scruting allowing additional consultation. Opinions on berberine and sweet fennel are expected by September and December 2025 respectively. This indicates why the HFMA needs to keep ahead of such developments which in time are likely tarako alliect us here n the UK

These key issues form he main agenda items for our HFMA working groups



appropriate actions and best practice to address issues as they are In addition multiple other issues need to be monitored and shared, including work on botonicals pet supplements. cosmetics, CBD, sustainability, additives, contaminants, packaging and packaging waste regulations, novel loods, claims, and many other issues where our members have concerns and seek our authorice. The HEMA team and advisors work tirelessly behind the scenes to establish solutions and guidance on all these topics

It highlights how much more herebin of a strong and active trade association provides our members with confidence to keep ahead of the myriads of sauca that they face today. HFMA membership helps reduce the daily concerns of companies knowing that advice and guidance is readily available and help ensure members are not adversely



The Natural Health Trade Summit comes to Ireland in 2025, bringing the whole health food trade together for a day of business, learning and networking





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