Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
L series

2026/2597

23.11.2026

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2026/2597

of 10 September 2026

amending Council Directive 2001/112/EC as regards processing aids for yeast fermentation

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Directive 2001/112/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption ([1]), and in particular Article 7(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([2]) amended Directive 2001/112/EC by introducing new categories of products in which the content of naturally occurring sugars has been reduced while maintaining the other essential physical, chemical, organoleptic and nutritional characteristics of the average type of juice from the fruit from which it is obtained, namely 'reduced-sugar fruit juice', 'reduced-sugar fruit juice from concentrate' and 'concentrated reduced-sugar fruit juice'.

(2) Point 3 of Part II of Annex I to Directive 2001/112/EC regulates the authorised treatments that may be applied and the substances that may be added to the products defined in Part I of that Annex. Directive (EU) 2024/1438 amended that provision, to lay down the authorised processes to reduce the amount of naturally occurring sugar, namely membrane filtration and yeast fermentation.

(3) The technical progress in the use of certain processing aids has led to substantial improvement in the application of the yeast fermentation process and in the quality of the final products obtained. Those processing aids have proven useful for the technological purposes of yeast rehydration and yeast nutrition during the yeast fermentation process used to reduce the content of naturally occurring sugars in fruit juices.

(4) In order to ensure the effective application of the authorised yeast fermentation process and to facilitate innovation and the placing on the market of reduced-sugar fruit juices produced using that process, the use of those processing aids should be authorised. Furthermore, in order to ensure that, other than the sugar content, the reduced-sugar fruit juices maintain the other essential physical, chemical, organoleptic and nutritional characteristics of an average type of juice from the fruit from which it is obtained, the maximum quantities of processing aids authorised should be set out.

(5) In order to take into account this technical progress, point 3 of Part II of Annex I to Directive 2001/112/EC should therefore be amended accordingly,

([1]) OJ L 10, 12.1.2002, p. 58, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2001/112/oj.

([2]) Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption (OJ L, 2024/1438, 24.5.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1438/oj).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In point 3 of Part II of Annex I to Directive 2001/112/EC, the following indent is added:

'— Only for reduced-sugar fruit juice, reduced-sugar fruit juice from concentrate and concentrated reduced-sugar fruit juice produced using the yeast fermentation process: the following processing aids for technological purposes and up to the maximum quantities indicated in the table may be used:

Technological purpose	Processing aid	Maximum quantities
Rehydration	sodium citrate	20 ppm
Nutrition	diammonium phosphate (DAP)	1 000 ppm
	yeast autolysate	*Quantum satis*
	thiamine hydrochloride	0,6 ppm'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 10 September 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN