

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations implement Commission Directive 2011/3/EU amending Directive [2008/128/EC](#) laying down specific purity criteria on colours for use in foodstuffs (OJ No. L13, 18.1.2011, p.59) (“the amending Directive”).

The amending Directive revises the purity criteria for lycopene derived from red tomatoes, and permits the use of two new sources of lycopene in accordance with prescribed purity criteria.

These Regulations implement the amending Directive by making an amendment to regulation 2 of the Food Additives Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 ([S.R. 2009 No. 416](#)) so that the definition of Directive 08/128 in those regulations includes reference to the amending Directive (*regulation 2(2)*).

The permission to use the two new sources of lycopene (synthetic lycopene and lycopene from *Blakeslea trispora*) is brought into operation earlier than the revision of existing purity criteria for lycopene from red tomatoes (*regulation 3*).