

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Regulation (EU) No 231/2012, E 431 POLYOXYETHYLENE (40) STEARATE. (See end of Document for details)

## ANNEX

**E 431 POLYOXYETHYLENE (40) STEARATE**

<b>Synonyms</b>	Polyoxyl (40) stearate; Polyoxyethylene (40) monostearate
<b>Definition</b>	A mixture of the mono- and diesters of edible commercial stearic acid and mixed polyoxyethylene diols (having an average polymer length of about 40 oxyethylene units) together with free polyol
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Chemical name	
Chemical formula	
Molecular weight	
Assay	Content not less than 97,5 % on the anhydrous basis
<b>Description</b>	Cream-coloured flakes or waxy solid at 25 °C with a faint odour
<b>Identification</b>	
Solubility	Soluble in water, ethanol, methanol and ethyl acetate. Insoluble in mineral oil
Congealing range	39-44 °C
Infrared absorption spectrum	Characteristic of a partial fatty acid ester of a polyoxyethylated polyol
<b>Purity</b>	
Water content	Not more than 3 % (Karl Fischer method)
Acid value	Not more than 1
Saponification value	Not less than 25 and not more than 35
Hydroxyl value	Not less than 27 and not more than 40
1,4-Dioxane	Not more than 5 mg/kg
Ethylene oxide	Not more than 0,2 mg/kg
Ethylene glycols (mono- and di-)	Not more than 0,25 %
Arsenic	Not more than 3 mg/kg
Lead	Not more than 2 mg/kg
Mercury	Not more than 1 mg/kg
Cadmium	Not more than 1 mg/kg

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