

**SUMMARY:** The Commissioner of Food and Drugs is issuing his Final Decision concerning the food additive petition for the nutritive sweetener aspartame submitted by G. D. Searle & Co. The Commissioner has determined that aspartame has been shown to be safe for its proposed uses as a food additive and is approving the petition. Specifically, the Commissioner finds that the available data establish that there is a reasonable certainty that human consumption of aspartame: (1) At projected consumption levels, will not pose a risk of brain damage resulting in mental retardation, endocrine dysfunction, or both; and (2) will not cause brain tumors. Accordingly, the Initial Decision of the Public Board of Inquiry is affirmed in part and reversed in part, as modified and supplemented herein.