Compass Tips

As those of you that are in the system are seeing, any ingredients you enter must match an existing ingredient in our directory, or you must request that we add them as a new directory ingredient. Our directory started off with over 26,000 items that are used in gluten-free manufacturing, and we will continue to review and add new ingredients that you request, as long as they aren't already in the directory under slightly different names, and as long as they match our naming convention. There are a couple of key features to our naming convention that will be helpful when you are trying to make a match or suggest a new ingredient:

- The first word in the ingredient typically tells you what the ingredient is, not a descriptor such as how it is processed. So, an entry would be "Onions, Minced", not "Minced Onions". Knowing this will help with your directory searches.
- Directory ingredient names do not, and will not, include other certifications, as these do not affect how ingredients are risked. Please leave off terms such as "Organic" and "Kosher". If new ingredients are submitted with these terms, we will truncate them and match them to the existing directory ingredient without these descriptors.
- There are some broad categories of ingredients that go against the general rule of starting with what the ingredient is, rather than a descriptor. The main categories are:

    - Base
    - Blend
    - Coating
    - Color
    - Emulsifier
    - Essential Oil
    - Extract
    - Filling
    - Flavor
    - Fragrance
    - Fruit Preparation
    - Inclusion
    - Marinade
    - Mix
    - Pellets
    - Premix
    - Sauce
    - Seasoning
    - Supplement
    - Variegate

    These are named starting with the descriptor because the form in which these are received is more important for our review and risking than the flavor or source. For example, if you are using a lavender essential oil, the fact that it is an essential oil is the most important part for us when assigning risk. For many of the other categories, the initial term such as Mix or Blend lets us know that we need to request the sub-components of that ingredient.

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As mentioned above, when you submit a new ingredient to be added to the directory, we may edit the ingredient if we feel it already has a match, so please review to make sure we haven't accidentally changed the true description of your ingredient.

We hope this background on how we've named our directory ingredients will help you as you are matching and searching in Compass. If you ever have additional questions, you can put them in the Comment box under the ingredients in Compass or reach out to gfco.clientsupport@gluten.org.

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