



## Official Statement by Astra

**The management of Astra (Upfield Lanka Pvt Ltd) wishes to make the following statement that our products do not contain TBHQ (E319) antioxidant**

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

Astra, a brand which has been a household name for over 56 years in Sri Lanka has been owned by Upfield Lanka (Private) Limited since mid-2018. An old letter regarding Astra, dated 2011, has been circulating online which is irrelevant to our products today. We wish to confidently communicate that this mentioned letter circulating in social media is outdated and the ingredient TBHQ (E319) was removed from the formulation back in 2011.

This old letter was issued to Unilever Sri Lanka, who owned the brand Astra at that time. The letter informs of an antioxidant known as TBHQ (E319) being present in the product formula. Following the approval of the Ministry of Health, Astra was reformulated in 2011 to remove TBHQ (E319) from the product and replaced with a new natural ingredient of 'Rosemary Extract', which provides antioxidant properties to Upfield's entire spread portfolio since then. The new reformulation was tested and endorsed by the Food Control Administration Unit under the Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka. (Please see appendix 02)

Upfield is the largest plant-based food company in the world with a presence in 95 countries. We believe that eating plant-based food is the future and are committed to making healthy, delicious and nutritious options that are both better for you and for the planet -aligned to our vision of 'A Better Plant Based Future'. All Upfield brands are produced to the highest quality standards, conforming to all the applicable food regulations in the country. So, we want to reassure that our products are 100% safe for you and everyone in your family to enjoy.

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Appendix 2:

Statement from Food Control Administration Unit confirming that TBHQ ingredient is not present in Astra fat spreads in 2012.



**FOOD CONTROL ADMINISTRATION UNIT**  
Ministry of Health  
Public Health Complex  
555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha – Colombo-05 -Sri Lanka  
Tel/ Fax +94112368727

My No: PA/EOH/FCAU/46/2011  
2012 - 9 - 12

12/9/12

Mr. Asnaga Ranasinghe,  
Director-Foods  
Unilever Sri Lanka Limited,  
258, M. Vincent Perera Mawatha,  
Colombo 14

Dear Sir,

**Astra Fat Spread - Use of Permitted Antioxidant**

Please be informed that results of the Astra Fat spread samples tested under the instructions of the Food Advisory Committee (FAC) indicates that TBHQ is not detectable at the level of detection (LOD) 10.00 mg/kg. in the tested samples.

Thank You,



Director General of Health Services,  
(Chief Food Authority)