

This proposed definition is based on several criteria: (1) the substance is found in human diets; (2) the content of the substance has been measured in foods commonly consumed; and (3) in humans, the substance decreases the formation of adverse effects of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species *in vivo*.

Additionally, based on its review of the scientific literature on dietary antioxidants and related compounds, and on the availability of data relating the intake of these substances to potential benefits to human health, in its second report the panel will evaluate the extent to which beta-carotene and other selected carotenoids, vitamin C, vitamin E, and selenium play a role in health. DRIs will be set for these food components if adequate data are available and if their role in health can be established and quantified. Therefore, for some of these nutrients and food components, their DRIs may not be determined by or related to their possible action as an antioxidant.

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