

# CASTOR OIL

*Prepared at the 27th JECFA (1983), published in FNP 28 (1983) and in FNP 52 (1992) Metals and arsenic specifications revised at the 63rd JECFA (2004)  
An ADI of 0-0.7 mg/kg bw established at the 23rd JECFA (1979)*

**SYNONYMS** Ricinus oil; INS No. 1503

**DEFINITION** The fixed oil obtained from the seed of *Ricinus Communis* L. (family *Euphorbiaceae*) is essentially the triglyceride of ricinoleic acid.

C.A.S. number 8001-79-4

**DESCRIPTION** Pale yellow or almost colourless, clear, viscous liquid, with a faint, mild odour

**FUNCTIONAL USES** Carrier solvent, release agent

## CHARACTERISTICS

### IDENTIFICATION

Solubility (Vol. 4) Soluble in 95% ethanol; miscible with absolute ethanol; slightly soluble in light petroleum

Specific gravity (Vol. 4) 0.952 - 0.966

Refractive index (Vol. 4) n (20, D): 1.477 - 1.481

### PURITY

Acid value (Vol. 4) Not more than 2

Hydroxyl value (Vol. 4) 160 - 168

Saponification value (Vol. 4) 176 - 185

Iodine value (Vol. 4) 83 - 88

Lead (Vol. 4) Not more than 2 mg/kg  
Determine using an atomic absorption technique appropriate to the specified level. The selection of sample size and method of sample preparation may be based on the principles of the method described in Volume 4, "Instrumental Methods."