

Source: Claude.AI

	Transparency of method	Objectivity	Data reliability
Open Food Facts	High: open data, open algorithms, revision history	High, because it mostly computes scores and doesn't editorialize	Mixed: crowdsourced, with large gaps
Yuka	Medium-high: published weights and an additive classification policy	Medium: deliberately precautionary	Medium: closed database, large coverage
EWG Healthy Living	Not verified	Not verified (it is an advocacy organization)	Not verified
Trash Panda	Low: I found no published criteria	Low-medium	Not verifiable

Open Food Facts is a non-profit and says it stays independent of the food industry. It computes Nutri-Score, NOVA, and Eco-Score using the official published algorithms. NOVA, which classifies how processed a food is, is itself debated among food scientists.

Yuka Says additives are rated using EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) and IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) assessments, then independent studies ranked by evidence level, with the Klimisch rating system used to judge study quality. Each additive then costs points:

- yellow: -6 points orange: -15 points red: -30 points, with the product capped at 49/100

The criticism of Yuka is consistent across sources and comes from regulators and toxicologists as well as industry:

- Yuka openly applies the precautionary principle, so an additive can lower a score even at levels regulators consider safe.
- Toxicologist Vera Rogiers argued it ignores degree of exposure.

- Italy's competition authority closed a 2022 proceeding after Yuka committed to toning down alarmist, absolute judgments. Yuka disputes the characterization in recent coverage of the Italian dispute.
- In March 2024 Yuka moved locust bean gum, guar, acacia, xanthan, and pectin from green to yellow, and carrageenan from orange to red. The log gives no new regulatory finding behind those moves. As I understand it, EFSA's re-evaluations did not conclude there was a safety concern for these gums at reported use levels, and EFSA's 2018 carrageenan opinion asked for better specifications but found no concern at reported uses. This needs to be verified. If it holds, the apps' gum ratings reflect a precautionary stance, not a regulatory consensus.

IMR comment: *Yuka's website claims nearly 90 million users but gives no indication of paying subscribers. (IMR is one).*