Claims

1. A method of preparing spray-dried flavor-containing particles, comprising the addition of flavor to an aqueous, sugar-free matrix and spray-drying the resulting blend, the matrix comprising an emulsifier, a film former and at least one metal salt, selected from the ferrous, alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts of citric, gluconic and tartaric acids.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which the salt is selected from potassium gluconate, tripotassium citrate, potassium bitartrate, sodium gluconate, magnesium gluconate and ferrous gluconate.

3. A method according to claim 1, in which the at least one salt is present at a concentration of from 10-30% by weight of the non-flavor particle constituents.

4. A method according to claim 3, in which the weight proportions of individual salts are selected as follows:

Potassium Gluconate	20-30%
Magnesium Gluconate	25%
Ferrous Gluconate	25%
Potassium Bitartrate	25%
Tripotassium Citrate	10-25%
Magnesium Citrate	20-30%

5. A method according to claim 1, in which more than one metal salt is used.

6. A method according to claim 5, in which the more than one salt is selected from one of the following combinations:
tripotassium citrate and potassium gluconate
tripotassium citrate and potassium bitartrate
potassium gluconate, tripotassium citrate and potassium bitartrate.

7. A method according to claim 6, in which the following weight proportions of salt are used:

Potassium Gluconate & Tripotassium Citrate (1:2) at 30%
Potassium Gluconate & Magnesium Citrate (1:2) at 30%
Potassium Gluconate & Tripotassium Citrate (1:1) at 20%
Potassium Bitartarate & Tripotassium Citrate (1:1) at 20%
Potassium Gluconate, Potassium Bitartrate & Tripotassium Citrate (1:1:1) at 30%.

8. A method according to claim 1, in which flavor is present at a proportion of up to 15% by weight of the particle.

9. A method according to claim 1, in which the matrix comprises from 10-90% by weight of the particle.

10. A spray-dried, flavor-containing particle comprising flavor in a sugar-free matrix, the matrix comprising an emulsifier, a film former and at least one metal salt, selected from the ferrous, alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts of citric, gluconic and tartaric acids.

11. A spray-dried, flavor-containing particle according to claim 10, in which the flavor content is up to 15% by weight of the particle.