



# Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety

EU Policy on contaminants in food  
Recent developments, outlook and  
challenges

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# RECENT AND ONGOING ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULATORY LEVELS CONTAMINANTS

# Amendments to Regulation 2023/915

- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1987](#) of 30 July 2024 as regards maximum levels of **nickel** in certain foodstuffs
- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1891](#) of 17 September 2025 as regards maximum levels of **inorganic arsenic in fish and other seafood**

# Nickel - Maximum levels –

- Maximum levels have been established for a whole range of foodstuffs by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1987 of 30 July 2024 amending Regulation \(EU\) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of nickel in certain foodstuffs](#)
- MLs applicable as from 1 July 2025 for most foodstuffs, from 1 July 2026 for cereals (3.6.11 to 3.6.15)

# Nickel - Maximum levels

## Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987

'3.6	<b>Nickel</b>	Maximum level (mg/kg)	Remarks
3.6.1	Tree nuts		The maximum level applies to the edible part. The maximum level does not apply to tree nuts for crushing and oil refining, provided that the remaining pressed tree nuts are not placed on the market as food. In case the remaining pressed tree nuts are placed on the market as food, the maximum level applies, taking into account Article 3(1) and (2).
3.6.1.1	Tree nuts except products listed in 3.6.1.2	3,5	
3.6.1.2	Chestnuts, pine nuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, and cashew nuts	10	



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# Nickel - Maximum levels

## Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987

3.6.11	Cereals		The maximum level does not apply to cereals used for the production of beer or distillates, provided that the remaining cereal residue is not placed on the market for the final consumer as food. In case the remaining cereal residue is placed on the market for the final consumer as food, the maximum level applies, taking into account Article 3(1) and (2).
3.6.11.1	Cereals except products listed in 3.6.11.2, 3.6.11.3, 3.6.11.4 and 3.6.11.5	0,80  As from 1 July 2026	

# Nickel - Maximum levels

## Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987

3.6.11.2	Durum wheat ( <i>Triticum durum</i> ) and rice except products listed in 3.6.11.3	1,5 As from 1 July 2026	
3.6.11.3	Husked rice	2,0 As from 1 July 2026	
3.6.11.4	Pseudo cereals and millet	3,0 As from 1 July 2026	

# Nickel - Maximum levels

## Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987

3.6.11.5	Oats	5,0  As from 1 July 2026	The maximum level applies to oats grains without the inedible husk. To calculate the maximum level for oats grains with the inedible husk a processing factor of 1,5 needs to be applied, resulting in an maximum level of 7,5 mg/kg for oats with the inedible husk.
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- **Inorganic arsenic in fish and other seafood**  
Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1891  
The MLs are for Inorganic arsenic (sum of As(III) and As(V)) (mg/kg)

3.4.5	Muscle meat of the following fish	
3.4.5.1	Species other than those listed under 3.4.5.2	0,10
3.4.5.2	Anglerfish, monkfish and giant stargazer ( <i>Lophius species</i> ; <i>Kathetostoma giganteum</i> ), flatfishes ( <i>Pleuronectiformes species</i> ), haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ), herring ( <i>Clupea species</i> ), ray ( <i>Rajidae species</i> ) and shark (all species).	0,50



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# Inorganic arsenic in fish and other seafood

## Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1891

The MLs are for Inorganic arsenic (sum of As(III) and As(V)) (mg/kg)

3.4.6	Crustaceans	
3.4.6.1	Crabs and crab-like crustaceans ( <i>Brachyura and Anomura</i> ), prawn and shrimps (all species).	0,10
3.4.6.2	Crustaceans other than those listed under 3.4.6.1 and 3.4.6.3.	0,20
3.4.6.3	Langoustine ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> ) and rock lobster ( <i>Jasus species</i> )	1,5
3.4.7	Bivalve molluscs	
3.4.7.1	Scallops	0,10
3.4.7.2	Bivalve molluscs other than those listed under 3.4.7.1	0,50
3.4.8	Cephalopods	0,050

# Technical discussions finalised

- Maximum levels (MLs) for sum of **furan, 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran** in processed cereal based foods for infants and young children and baby food
- MLs for **sum of 3-MCPD and 3-MCPD esters and MLs for glycidyl esters** in babyfood and foods for infants and young children and in compound foods containing more than 5 % fat and containing vegetable oils or marine oils.
- MLs for **PAH** in freekeh (roasted durum wheat)
- MLs (establishment and review) of different contaminants in several foods

# Furan, 2-methylfuran and 3- methylfuran

Draft Regulation : ML for sum of furan, 2- and 3- methylfuran in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  expressed as furan – a factor of 0,83 is to applied to the level of 2- and 3- methylfuran

5.6.1	Processed cereal-based food for infants and young children <sup>(3)</sup> .	40
5.6.2	Baby food <sup>(3)</sup>	
5.6.2.1	Dairy-based and fruit-based baby food	30
5.6.2.2	Other baby food	80

# ML for sum of 3-MCPD and 3-MCPD esters – glycidyl esters

## Draft Regulation

Processed cereal based food for infants and young children and babyfood

3-MCPD + 3MCPD esters: 50 µg/kg

Glycidyl esters: 25 µg/kg

(ML lowered for vegetable oils intended for the production of babyfood: for 3-MCPD + 3-MCPD esters: 750 → 500 µg/kg and for glycidyl esters from 500 → 250 µg/kg)

# **ML for sum of 3-MCPD and 3-MCPD esters – glycidyl esters**

Compound food containing more than 5 % fat and containing added vegetable oils and fats and/or fish oils and/or oils from other marine organisms except products

The MLs refer to the fat content.

The fat content is as declared on the label or in case the labeled fat content is not available, as extracted for analysis

MLs reflect the MLs applicable to vegetable oils and marine oils.

# PAH in freekeh – roasted durum wheat

- ML of PAH in freekeh (roasted durum wheat) – **reflecting P80 !**
- Benzo(a)pyrene: 15 µg/kg
- PAH 4: 80 µg/kg

Percentile (96 samples)	B(a)P (µg/kg)	PAH4 (µg/kg)
P50	8.3	33.7
P75	13.3	55.5
P80	15.8	61.4
P85	34.6	145.4
P90	53.3	198.3
P95	73.6	282.4

## Other topics on which technical discussion is finalised

- ML for aflatoxins in tiger nuts (AFB1:5 µg/kg , AFTOT: 10 µg/kg)
- ML of 5 µg/kg for ochratoxin A in non-sulphured dried apricots to be established (instead of currently 2 µg/kg)
- ML of 8 µg/kg for ochratoxin A in dried mulberries (instead of currently 2 µg/kg)
- ML for hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels of 35 mg/kg (currently 20 mg/kg)
- ML of nickel in pecan nuts of 10 mg/kg (currently 3,5 mg/kg)



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# **MLs under discussion**

**Technical discussion in progress/advanced**

- **MOAH in foods**
- **Metals (including iodine) in seaweed**
- **PAH in smoked fish and fishery products**
- **Acrylamide**
- **DON in wheat bran**
- **$\Delta$ 9-THC in hemp leaves for infusion**

# Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons (MOH) (MOSH and MOAH)

- MOSH: mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons
- MOAH: mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons
- 2023 EFSA opinion on an [update of the risk assessment of MOHs in food](#)
  - The present dietary exposure to **MOSH** does not raise concern for human health for all age classes.
  - Genotoxicity and carcinogenicity are associated with MOAH, a possible concern for human health was raised in relation to the presence of **MOAH** in food.

# MOH (MOSH and MOAH)

Regulatory measures under discussion

- Maximum levels for MOAH in a wide range of foodstuffs under discussion
- ML at LOQ i.e. 0.5 mg/kg products with < 4% fat/oil content, 1.0 mg/kg products with  $\geq 4\%$  and  $\leq 50\%$  fat/oil content and 2 mg for products with  $> 50\%$  fat/oil content, **with exemptions** (gradual lowering, spices/dried herbs, fish oils, food supplements).
  - Tree nuts: 2.0 mg/kg
  - Cereal grains: 0.50 mg/kg

# MOH (MOSH and MOAH)

- Monitoring recommendation with
  - Indicative levels for MOSH (indicative level of 5 mg/kg for tree nuts, cereals, processed fruits and vegetables, 10 mg for processed fish and other seafood)
  - Indicative levels for MOAH ( 2 mg for processed fruits and vegetables, processed fish and other seafood)
- Requirements for sampling and analysis

# Metals in algae and seaweed

- Given the change in dietary pattern (higher consumption of algae and seaweed in diet) presence of metals in algae and seaweed of increasing importance for exposure and human health.
- EFSA report on ["Dietary exposure to metals and iodine via consumption of seaweed and halophytes in the European population"](#) (published January 2023) -Occurrence data of contaminants in seaweed
- Consumption of seaweeds can lead to a significantly increased additional exposure to cadmium, inorganic arsenic and lead for which the intake from a diet without seaweed already exceeds the health-based guidance values.

# Metals in algae and seaweed

- Discussion on maximum levels for inorganic arsenic (0,50 - 1,0 mg/kg), cadmium (3,0 - 4,0 mg/kg), lead (0,50-2 mg/kg) and iodine in algae as currently MLs are established only for food supplements (consisting exclusively or mainly of seaweed or products derived from seaweed).
  - For dry seaweed the maximum level applies to the product as placed on the market.
  - For fresh seaweed the maximum level applies after washing and separating the edible part. For fresh seaweed the maximum level applies on a dry matter basis.



# Review of MLs for PAH

	Current ML (µg/kg)		<i>ML under discussion</i> (µg/kg)	
	B(a)P	PAH4	B(a)P	PAH4
5.1.6. Smoked meat and smoked meat products	2.0	12.0	2.0	12.0
5.1.7. Smoked fishery products except products listed in 5.1.8	2.0	12.0	<b>1.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>
5.1.8. Smoked sprats and canned smoked sprats ( <i>Sprattus sprattus</i> )	5.0	30.0	<b>4.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>
5.1.8. Heat treated meat and heat treated meat products placed on the market for the final consumer	5.0	30.0	<b>4.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>
5.1.9. Smoked bivalve molluscs	6.0	35.0	6.0	35.0
<i>Smoked cheese</i>	-	-		



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# Review of MLs for PAH: not only smoked food but also food containing smoked ingredients

## ML applicable to

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Smoked meat and smoked meat products

Meat and meat products containing smoked ingredients

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Smoked fishery products <sup>(2)</sup> except products listed in 5.1.8

Fishery products containing smoked ingredients

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# Acrylamide – Ongoing discussions

- **The review of existing benchmark levels** established by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2158 of 20 November 2017](#) establishing mitigation measures and benchmark levels for the reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food.
- The **establishment of new benchmark levels**, in particular for certain foods mentioned in [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2019/1888 of 7 November 2019 on the monitoring of the presence of acrylamide in certain foods](#)
- **Update on the mitigation measures ?**
- The **establishment of maximum levels** in certain foods

# Acrylamide - ongoing discussions - outlook

- Targeted stakeholder consultation has taken place been with a stakeholder forum (January/February 2022)
- Continuation of technical discussions taking into account
  - the comments received during targeted stakeholder consultation
  - outcome questionnaire Member States
  - the most recent available occurrence data
- Challenges/difficulties encountered
- Technical discussions expected to be finalised in the first half of 2026

# Acrylamide - Data analysis for benchmark and maximum levels

- Challenges/difficulties encountered with data analysis
  - Only occurrence data from sampling year 2016 onwards to be considered;
  - The occurrence data will be split into two sets:
    - Sampling years 2016-2017-2018 (ante Regulation (EU) 2017/2158) and sampling years 2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024 (Post Regulation (EU) 2017/2158)
  - The benchmark levels and maximum levels will be based on the occurrence data sampling years 2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024. (120 000 data) The data set 2016-2017-2018 will be considered only in case of need (in case of limited data available).

# Deoxynivalenol in wheat bran

Reconsideration of the ML of 600  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  applicable as from 1 July 2024 for deoxynivalenol in wheat bran, not placed on the market for the final consumer.

Any possible change of the current ML, will have no consequences for the ML of 400  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  established for bakery wares, cereal snacks and breakfast cereals.

The ML for deoxynivalenol of 600  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  in wheat bran placed on the market for the final consumer is not under discussion.

**Under discussion** : 750/900  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  for wheat bran B2B



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# RECENT / ONGOING MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS - CONTAMINANTS

## **Nickel – Monitoring recommendation**

### Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/907

- Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/907 of 22 March 2024 on the monitoring of nickel in food
- Monitoring during the years 2025-2027
- The monitoring should include food supplements, chocolate, chocolate spreads, nut spreads, cocoa beans, **cereal based products (in particular, breakfast cereals, cereal flakes and oat milling products)**, ready-to-eat soups, coffee, tea, vegetables, seaweeds, oilseeds, soy based products, such as tofu and soy based drinks, pulses, **nuts**, fish and other seafood.



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# Quinolizidine alkaloids

## Draft Commission Recommendation

Quinolizidine alkaloids in lupins and lupin-derived food such as dry lupin seeds, lupin flour, canned/jarred lupins, (mixes for) (gluten free) bread and fine bakery wares containing lupins, lupin-based egg analogues, lupin-based coffee imitates, lupin-based milk and meat imitates, lupin protein powder for shakes and smoothies, ...should be monitored.

At least the quinolizidine alkaloids albine, anagyrin, angustifoline, lupanine, isolupanine, multiflorine, 13 $\alpha$ -hydroxylupanine, lupinine, sparteine should be analysed

The recommended method of analysis is Liquid Chromatography / Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Other methods of analysis can be applied provided that evidence is available showing that they generate reliable results for individual quinolizidine alkaloids.



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# Quinolizidine alkaloids

## Draft Commission Recommendation

The limit of quantification (LOQ) for the determination of each quinolizidine alkaloid should preferably be around 1 mg/kg for lupin seeds and lupin derived foods, 0.2 mg/kg for foods containing lupins and/or lupin-derived foods and 0.05 mg/kg for milk and other food of animal origin.

Investigations to identify the factors leading to high levels of quinolizidine alkaloids in lupins and lupin-derived food are to be performed and to gather more information on the effects of processing on the level of quinolizidine alkaloids.

# N-nitrosamines - possible measures at EU level

**EFSA opinion published 28 March 2023**

## **A) Monitoring of presence 10 carcinogenic N—nitrosamines (TCNA) i.e.**

- N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), N-nitrosomethylethylamine (NMEA),
- N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA), N-nitrosodipropylamin (NDPA),
- N-nitrosodibutylamine (NDBA), N-nitrosomethylaniline (NMA),
- N-nitrososarcosine (NSAR), N-nitrosomorpholine (NMOR),
- N-nitrosopiperidine (NPIP) N-nitrosopyrrolidine (NPYR).

# N-nitrosamines – possible measures at EU level

## EFSA opinion published 28 March 2023

- Compilation of good practices to minimize presence of N-Nitrosamines in food in view of a possible elaboration of Code of Good Practice
- Establishment of maximum levels
- **Monitoring**

# N-nitrosamines – draft monitoring recommendation - methods of analysis

- The recommended methods of analysis are based on tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) coupled either to liquid (LC-MS/MS) or gas chromatography (GC-MS/MS). Other methods of analysis for example using detection via thermal energy analyzer (TEA) can be applied, provided that evidence is available showing that they generate reliable results for the individual N-nitrosamines.
- The limit of quantification (LOQ) for the determination of each N-nitrosamine should be lower than 1 µg/kg for the 10 carcinogenic N—nitrosamines and not be higher than 5 µg/kg for other N-nitrosamines when analysed



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# **N-nitrosamines – draft monitoring recommendation - methods of analysis**

- Foods targeted for monitoring: particular cured meat products, processed fish, alcoholic beverages. processed vegetables, processed cereals, milk and dairy products, or fermented, pickled and spiced foods.



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# Chlorinated paraffins

- EFSA assessment on chlorinated paraffins (CPs) in feed and food <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.5991>
- Major issue was the analysis, in particular the long-chain chlorinated paraffins An approach for analysis of chlorinated paraffins in food (and feed) was agreed within the EURL-NRL network .
- The sum of polychlorinated alkanes (PCAs) (new name for chlorinated paraffins) C<sub>10-17</sub> to be analysed as semi-quantitative screening against a threshold trigger value) If trigger value is exceeded, more specific analysis is recommended.
- A monitoring recommendation is under finalisation

# Chlorinated paraffins – draft Recommendation

- Member States in collaboration with food business operators should monitor during the years 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029 the presence of chlorinated paraffins (CPs) in food.
- An analytical approach should be implemented whereby the sum of polychlorinated alkanes (PCAs) with a chain length of  $C_{10}$ - $C_{17}$  is determined by Gas Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS/MS) or Gas Chromatography coupled to Low Resolution Mass Spectrometry (GC-LRMS). Alternative measurement techniques may be applied, provided they also give results for the sum of PCAs  $C_{10}$ - $C_{17}$ .
- In case the level of sum of PCAs  $C_{10}$ - $C_{17}$  found is higher than the threshold/trigger value, the sample is sent for a more detailed analysis by Liquid Chromatography (LC) or Gas Chromatography (GC) coupled with a High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) to an expert laboratory.



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# Chlorinated paraffins – draft Recommendation

- The threshold value of sum of PCAs  $C_{10}$ - $C_{17}$  is
  - for fish, 100 ng/g wet weight,
  - for milk and dairy products 20 ng/g wet weight,
  - for oils and fats 1000 ng/g fat,
  - for other products of animal origin (e.g. meat, eggs, ...) 300 ng/g fat,
  - for processed foods (whole meals) 50 ng/g wet weight and
  - for babyfood 20 ng/g wet weight.
- Member States and food business operators should provide the occurrence data to EFSA

## Monitoring of PAH, furan-2(5H)-one, benzene-1,2-diol (catechol) and benzofuran and other contaminants of relevance in foods smoked with the use of conventional smoking processes

- [EFSA assessment](#) on the safety of products smoked with a conventional smoking process
- furan-2(5H)-one, benzene-1,2-diol (catechol) and benzofuran
- Other contaminants identified by EFSA to be possibly relevant in smoked foods such as phenols (e.g. phenol, cresol, guaiacol, syringol, formaldehyde, heterocyclic aromatic amines (i.e. 2-amino-3-methyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline (IQ), 3,8-dimethylimidazo[4,5-f]quinoxalin-2-amine (MeIQx) 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[5-b]pyridine (PhIP),  $\beta$ -carbolines, acrolein and biphenyl.



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# **RECENT /ONGOING REGULATIONS SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS CONTAMINANTS**

# Nickel – Sampling and analysis

## Commission Impl. Regulation (EU) 2024/1045

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1045 of 9 April 2024 amending Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 as regards the methods of sampling and analysis for the control of levels of nickel in foodstuffs
- Specific sample preparation procedures: in the case of nickel contamination problems may arise when stainless steel or iron equipment is used for sampling or analysis. Special equipment shall be used in such cases in materials such as titanium, ceramics or agate.



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# Nickel – Sampling and analysis

## Commission Impl. Regulation (EU) 2024/1045

- LOQ requirement

Nickel	$ML \leq 0,3 \text{ mg/kg}$	$0,3 < ML < 0,6 \text{ mg/kg}$	$ML \geq 0,6 \text{ mg/kg}$
	$\leq ML$	$\leq \text{two thirds of the ML}$	$\leq \text{one third of the ML}'$

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins food

- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2782](#): methods of sampling and analysis for the control of the levels of mycotoxins in food as amended by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2024/885](#) (method of sampling for dried herbs, herbal infusions (dried product), teas (dried product) and powdered spices).

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins food

- It shall apply from 1 April 2024
- However, until 1 January 2029, the specific requirements provided for in point 4.3 in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 shall continue to apply to methods which have been validated before the entry into application of this Regulation

# Sampling and analysis plant toxins food

- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2783](#)  
methods of sampling and analysis for the  
control of the levels of plant toxins in food

# Plant toxins

## Analytical requirements

- It shall apply from 1 April 2024. However, methods of analysis which have been validated before the entry into application of this Regulation may remain in use until 1 July 2028, even if they do not comply with all specific requirements provided for in point 4.2 in Annex II to this Regulation.

# Update performance criteria for processing contaminants under discussion

- Update of the performance criteria in Commission regulation (EC) 333/2007 for PAH, 3-MCPD, 3-MCPD fatty acid esters, glycidyl fatty acid esters, acrylamide and perchlorate and new performance criteria for furan and alkylfurans are foreseen
  - Recovery criterion: 70% - 120%.
  - Repeatability (RSDr):  $\leq 20\%$
  - Reproducibility (RSDR): within-laboratory Reproducibility (RSDwR)  $\leq 20\%$ .
  - Limit of Quantification (LOQ) criteria : no major changes (LOQ for furan 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  for each substance)

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins and plant toxins –auto-controls

- **Why ?** – ensuring representativeness of sampling and reliability of analytical results for the controls for mycotoxins and plant toxins by food business operators
- Legal basis: Article 4(4) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs](#)
- Targeted stakeholder consultation – Comments received
- Elaboration of Commission Regulation establishing (basic) requirements for sampling and methods of analysis used for autocontrols for the presence of mycotoxins and plant toxins

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins and plant toxins – autocontrols

Samples taken have to be representative for the sampled batch. The representativeness can be ensured by taking

- Sufficient incremental samples and
- Sufficient large samples

*To be representative, the sample shall be taken according to*

- *the sampling rules as established in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 for mycotoxins and in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2783 for plant toxins, or equivalent, or*
- *the sampling rules as established in relevant international standards such as EN ISO 24333, GAFTA Sampling Rules 124, ISO/FDIS 18390, EN ISO 5555, ISO 21294 scope of sampling rules of the international standard*

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins and plant toxins – autocontrols

*In case the commodity and/or mycotoxin(s) and plant toxin(s) are not explicitly in the scope of the standard, evidence must be provided proving that the sampling rules established by the international standard are also representative for the commodity to be sampled and for the mycotoxin(s) or plant toxin(s) controlled, not explicitly in the scope of the international standard.*

*The sampling rules established by the sector organisations or by the food business operator. In these cases, the sampling rules must be described in detail and evidence must be provided that these sampling rules ensure the representativeness of the sample taken for the sampled batch/lot.*

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins and plant toxins – autocontrols

## *Sample preparation*

*The complete aggregate sample shall be homogenised in accordance with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 for mycotoxins and of Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2783 for plant toxins*

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins and plant toxins – autocontrols

## *Methods of analysis*

*The criteria provided for methods of analysis used for the control of the levels of mycotoxins in food in point 4.2. of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 and for the control of the levels of plant toxins in food in point 4.2. in Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2783 shall be complied with.*

*The semi-quantitative screening methods used for the control of the levels of mycotoxins in food, must be validated in accordance with the provisions of point 4.2.2. of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 and for the control of the levels of plant toxins in food must be validated in accordance with point 4.2.2 in Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2783.*

*The qualitative screening methods used for the control of the levels of mycotoxins in food, must be validated in accordance with the provisions of point 4.2.3. of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 and for the control of the levels of plant toxins in food, must be validated in accordance with point 4.2.3 in Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2783.*

# Sampling and analysis mycotoxins and plant toxins – autocontrols

## *Estimation of analytical measurement uncertainty, recovery calculation and reporting of results*

*The analytical measurement uncertainty, recovery calculation and reporting of results shall be done in accordance with the provisions of point 4.3. of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 for mycotoxins and of point 4.3 in Annex II to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2783 for plant toxins.*

## *Compliance with maximum levels*

*The compliance of the sampled batch or lot with maximum levels is verified by the food business operator in accordance with the provisions on the acceptance of a lot or subplot as provided for in part II of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2782 for mycotoxins and plant toxins in the different commodities.*



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# OUTLOOK

# Outlook mycotoxins

- **enniatiins** – update [EFSA assessment](#) ongoing
- **beauvericin** – update [EFSA assessment](#) ongoing
- phomopsins – update [EFSA assessment](#) ongoing
- sterigmatocystin
- **Alternaria toxins** - update [EFSA assessment](#) ongoing
- modified forms of DON
- ...

# Outlook plant toxins

- thebaine (opium alkaloid) update [EFSA assessment](#) ongoing
- delta-8-THC EFSA assessment ongoing – [public consultation](#)
- quinolizidine alkaloids (MLs in addition to monitoring recommendation)
- Lectins EFSA assessment ongoing – [public consultation](#)
- ...

# Organic arsenic

Follow-up to [EFSA risk assessment on small organoarsenic species in food](#) of 2 July 2024

Monomethylarsonic acid V (MMA(V)) and dimethylarsinic acid V (DMA(V)) are the most abundant of these compounds in food. The highest concentrations are found in rice, algae and seafood.

Exposure to DMA raises a health risk, particularly for high consumers while exposure to MMA would not pose a risk

An [EFSA risk assessment on complex organoarsenic species in food](#) was published on 10 December 2024



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# **Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)**

## **– EFSA updated risk assessments**

PBDE's : EFSA opinion adopted November 2023,  
published January 2024

The most important contributors to the chronic dietary Lower Bound exposure to PBDEs were meat and meat products and fish and seafood. Taking into account the uncertainties affecting the assessment, the Panel concluded that it is likely that current dietary exposure to PBDEs in the European population raises a health concern.

- follow-up food (ongoing)

# Dioxins and PCBs

## Update following review TEFs –

- [Mandate to EFSA](#) – assessment ongoing
- Conversion of existing congener-specific occurrence data in the EFSA database into the new TEF value
- Update occurrence data and human and animal exposure. (data from the last 10 years – sampling years 2014-2023)
- Update of the risk characterisation part and other parts of the EFSA 2018 opinion (30/04/2026)
- Comprehensive review of EU legislation/of EU MLs.



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# Other future/upcoming issues in the field of contaminants

- Micro-and nanoplastics
- MLs - PFAS (> 4, other foods)
- Organophosphorous flame retardants ([EFSA assessment ongoing](#))
- Semicarbazide as processing contaminant ([EFSA assessment ongoing](#))
- Nitrates/nitrites
- Perchlorate follow up to update [EFSA opinion](#) )
- ...



European  
Commission

**Thank you for  
your  
attention !**