

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT FOR THE AMENDED REGULATIONS RELATING TO MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR METALS IN FOODSTUFFS

Attached below is the table with the maximum levels for metals in foodstuffs. It indicates the similarities and differences between the intended and current regulation in terms of the foodstuffs categories and the maximum levels of metals. The intended regulation is in line with the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF) (CODEX STAN 193-1995 amended 2014) so as to ensure food safety and compliance with the international food standards to ensure smooth international food trade. The intended regulation is also more specific in terms of foodstuff categories. The GSCTFF maximum levels are set only for those metals that present a significant risk to public health and are known or expected to cause problems in the international trade. The foodstuffs on the GSCTFF are removed or added under metals based on scientific re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and data from the Global Environment Monitoring System/ Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme (GEMS/FOOD) on whether they are major contributors and/or sources of that metal and thus significant for the total exposure of the consumer to that metal. Based on the scientific findings from JECFA, the GSCTFF maximum levels are also set as low as reasonably achievable and at levels necessary to protect the consumer.

MAXIMUM LEVELS (ML) FOR METALS IN FOODSTUFFS

INTENDED REGULATION		CURRENT REGULATION		COMMENTS
FOODSTUFFS	ML	ML	FOODSTUFFS	
ANTIMONY (Sb)				
		0.005	Natural mineral water	
		0.15	All other liquid foodstuffs	
ARSENIC (As)				
Edible fats and Oils	0.1	0.1	Edible fats and Oils	
Fat spreads and blended spreads	0.1			
Natural mineral water	0.01	0.01	Natural mineral water	
Salt, food grade	0.5			

INTENDED REGULATION		CURRENT REGULATION		COMMENTS
FOODSTUFFS	ML	ML	FOODSTUFFS	
ARSENIC (As)				
Rice, polished	0.2			
		0.5	Chocolate	
		1.0	Composite, filled and unsweetened chocolate	
		0.2	Fruit juices and nectars	
		3.0	Fish and processed fish	
		1.0	Meat and processed meat	
CADMIUM (Cd)				
Brassica vegetables	0.05	0.05	Fruit and other vegetables	
Bulb vegetables	0.05			
Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits	0.05	0.1	Pineapples	
Leafy vegetables	0.2			
Root and tuber vegetables	0.1			
Stalk and stem vegetables	0.1			
Legumes vegetables	0.1			
Pulses	0.1			
Cereal grains	0.1	0.1	Cereals, pulses and legumes	
Wheat	0.2			
Rice, polished	0.4			
Marine bivalve molluscs (excluding oysters and scallops)	2.0	3.0	Shellfish and shellfish products	
Cephalopods (without viscera)	2.0	1.0	Fish and processed fish	
		0.05	Meat and processed meat (excluding liver and kidneys)	

INTENDED REGULATION		CURRENT REGULATION		COMMENTS
FOODSTUFFS	ML	ML	FOODSTUFFS	
CADMIUM (Cd)				
Natural mineral water	0.003	0.003	Natural mineral water	
Salt, food grade	0.5			
LEAD (Pb)				
Legume vegetables	0.1	0.2	Cereal, pulses and legumes	
Pulses	0.2			
Cereal grains	0.2			
Brassica vegetables	0.1	0.3	Brassica and leafy vegetables	
Leafy vegetables	0.3		except spinach	
Bulb vegetables	0.1	0.1	Fruits and all other vegetables	
Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits	0.05			
Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits (excluding fungi, mushrooms and sweet corn)	0.05			
Root and tuber vegetables	0.1			
Berries and other small fruits (excluding cranberry, currant and elderberry)	0.2	0.2	Small fruits and berries	
Fruits, except berries and other small fruits	0.1			
Canned fruit cocktail	0.1			
Canned tropical fruit salad	0.1			
Canned grape fruit	0.1			
Canned mandarin oranges	0.1			
Canned mangoes	0.1			
Canned pineapple	0.1			
Canned raspberries	0.1			
Canned strawberries	0.1			

INTENDED REGULATION			CURRENT REGULATION	
FOODSTUFF	ML	ML	FOODSTUFF	COMMENTS
LEAD (Pb)				
Jams (fruit preserves) and jellies	1.0			
Mango chutney	1.0			
Preserved tomatoes	1.0			
Table Olives	1.0			
Canned asparagus	0.1			
Canned carrots	0.1			
Canned green beans and canned wax beans	1.0			
Canned green peas	1.0			
Canned mature processed peas	0.1			
Canned mushrooms	1.0			
Canned palmito	0.1			
Canned sweet corn	0.1			
Pickled cucumbers	1.0			
Processed tomato concentrates	1.5			
Fruit juices, nectars and ready-to-drink juices	0.03	0.3	Vegetables juices, fruits juices and nectar	
Passion fruit juices, juices and nectars from berries and small fruits	0.05			
Canned chestnuts and canned chestnuts purée	1.0			
Meat of cattle, pigs and sheep	0.1	0.1	Meat and processed meat	
Poultry meat	0.1			

INTENDED REGULATION FOODSTUFF	ML	ML	CURRENT REGULATION FOODSTUFF	COMMENTS
LEAD (Pb)				
Cattle, Edible offal of	0.5			
Pig, Edible offal of	0.5			
Poultry, Edible offal of	0.5			
Fish	0.3	0.5	Fish and processed fish	
Edible fats and oils	0.1			
Fat spreads and blended spreads	0.1			
		0.1	Vinegar	
		0.3	Mayonnaise	
		1.0	Chocolate, composite and filled chocolate	
		2.0	Unsweetened chocolate	
Natural mineral waters	0.01	0.01	Natural mineral water	
Milk	0.02	0.02	Milk and milk products	
Secondary milk products	0.02			
Infant formula, formula for special medical purposes intended for infants and follow-up formula	0.01	0.02	Infant formulae	
Salt, food grade	2.0			
Wine	0.2			
MERCURY(Hg)				
Natural mineral waters	0.001	0.001	Natural mineral water	
Salt, food grade	0.1			

INTENDED REGULATION		CURRENT REGULATION		COMMENTS
FOODSTUFFS	ML	ML	FOODSTUFFS	
Methylmercury				
Fish, except predatory fish	Guideline Level (GL) 0.5	0.5 0.5	Shellfish and shellfish products All other fish and processed fish	
Predatory fish	1.0	1.0	Predatory fish, including swordfish	
TIN(Sn)				
Canned beverages	150	150	Canned apple, grape, blackcurrant and small fruit juices and nectars	
Canned foods (other than beverages)	250	200	All other canned fruit juices and nectars, and canned vegetable juices	
		250 200	Canned fruits and vegetables Canned meat and meat products	
Cooked cured chopped meat	50	50	All uncanned meat and meat products	
Cooked cured ham	50			
Cooked cured pork shoulder	50			
Corned beef	50			
Luncheon meat	50			
		150	Soups and broths	