



A Global View on Reducing Heavy Metal Limits in Spices EU Regulation Overview

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EU Regulation Overview

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02006R1881-20201014>)

Article 8

Sampling and analysis

Current consolidated version dated 14/10/2020

- NO specific Spices category on the ML Annex
- General category of Fresh Herbs
- New proposed Lead ML for ginger (as root spice and not fresh ginger) of 1.5 ppm was decided as outcome of the meeting of the EU Standing Committee on Novel Foods and Toxicological Safety, held on 26 Feb 2021. ESA shared data points and info with the EU stakeholders in addition of the info collected via the EU members states.

The sampling and the analysis for the official control of the maximum levels specified in the Annex shall be performed in accordance with Commission Regulations (EC) No 1882/2006 ⁽¹⁾, No 401/2006 ⁽²⁾, No 1883/2006 ⁽³⁾ and Commission Directives 2001/22/EC ⁽⁴⁾, 2004/16/EC ⁽⁵⁾ and 2005/10/EC ⁽⁶⁾.

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EU Regulation Overview- RECAST of Regulation EC 1881/2006

- The proposed revision will include a collection of all the amendments that are ongoing or pending in publication (aflatoxins, OTA, patulin, fusarium toxins, DON, ZEA, fumonisins, ergot alkaloids, pyrrolizidine alkaloids, tropane alkaloids, opium alkaloids, dioxins, PAH, melamine, erucic acid, HCN, Pb, Cd, Hg, AS, Sn, 3-MCPD, GE, nitrate, perchlorate).
- These amendments refer as well to the levels set in Codex.
- In the provisions (“Whereas” section) the single amendments contaminant per contaminant are explained.
- Sampling, monitoring and transition periods are also included in the draft.
- The structure has been rearranged in a more logical order of contaminants now and more specific, e.g., no longer “inherent plant toxins – but only plant toxins”.
- Footnotes are explained better, they are easier to find and relate to the correct contaminant.

With particular regard to SPICES, please note that the Annex to the Draft Regulation establishes maximum levels of several different contaminants: Aflatoxins; Ochratoxin A; Pyrrolizidine alkaloids;; Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and **Lead**.

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Draft reg amending Regulation (EU) 1881/2006

- (50) As regards lead, the CONTAM Panel of EFSA identified⁽²²⁾ that lead can cause developmental neurotoxicity in young children and cardiovascular issues and nephrotoxicity in adults. The risk assessment for lead was based on these potentially critical adverse effects. EFSA concluded that there was no evidence for a threshold for a number of critical endpoints, including developmental neurotoxicity and adult nephrotoxicity. Therefore, it was not appropriate to derive a TWI. EFSA expressed a concern that there was potential that the current levels of dietary exposure to lead might affect neurodevelopment in foetuses, infants and children. Therefore, it is appropriate to set maximum levels for lead in food.

⁽²²⁾ EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2010. Scientific Opinion on Lead in Food. *EFSA Journal* 2010; 8(4):1570. [151 pp.], doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2010.1570.

Lead- Draft reg amending Regulation (EU) 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of lead in certain foods

- (11) For spices currently no ML has been established. An ML for lead in spices would help to reduce the consumer exposure to lead and would facilitate an efficient enforcement against fraudulent practices such as the addition of lead chromate to curcuma. Therefore taking into account the EU occurrence data, an ML for lead in spices should be established.

ANNEX I Rev1- Lead

3.1.12	Dried spices		The maximum level refers to the product as placed on the market.
3.1.12.1	Seed spices	0,90	
3.1.12.2	Fruit spices	0,60	
3.1.12.3	Bark spices	2,0	
3.1.12.4	Root and rhizome spices	1,50	
3.1.12.5	Bud spices	1,0	
3.1.12.6	Flower pistil spices	1,0	

Article 8

Sampling and analysis

The sampling and the analysis for the official control of the maximum levels specified in Annex I shall be performed in accordance with Commission Regulations (EC) No 1882/2006⁵³, No 401/2006⁵⁴, No 333/2007⁵⁵, Commission Regulations (EU) No 589/2014⁵⁶ and No 2015/705⁵⁷.

EU Regulation Overview- RECAST of Regulation EC 1881/2006

- Draft of the Commission Regulation setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in food
- Updated Annexes of the Commission regulation setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in food
- Scientific Opinion on Lead in Food EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM)

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