

NEW EU REGULATION FOR AFLATOXIN LEVEL IN FOODSTUFFS

On 26 February 2010, the European Union (EU) published Commission Regulation No. 165/2010 amending Commission Regulation No. 1881/2006 to increase the maximum level of total aflatoxin specifically for almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, and tree nuts as well as some grains. The new EU regulation is now in line with existing Codex maximum aflatoxin level. The EU regulation for aflatoxin as compared to the Codex standard covers more products and has separate maximum levels for aflatoxin B₁.

Aflatoxin is a group of natural toxins produced from the secondary metabolite of some *Aspergillus* mould fungus species, namely *A. flavus*, *A. parasiticus*, and *A. nominus*. Aflatoxin are formed during the mould growth on feed or food. In aflatoxin group, about 16 compounds are known but only aflatoxin B₁, B₂, G₁, G₂, and M₁ are routinely monitored. Amongst these, aflatoxin B₁ is one of the most potential carcinogenic items for human¹. For aflatoxin M₁, it is only found in milk of lactating animal which have consumed feedstuffs contaminated by aflatoxin B₁.

Table 1, lists the new EU aflatoxin maximum level of tree nuts, oilseeds (not for crushing), and cereals following to Commission Regulation No. 165/2010². Data from the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the food Chain (Contam Panel) concluded that changing the maximum level for total aflatoxin from 4 µg/kg to 10 or 15 µg/kg in almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, and tree nuts would have minor effect on human cancer risk. In this new legislation the manufacturers are required to label each individual container and identify on the original accompanying document the products which had undergone sorting or other physical treatments in order to reduce aflatoxin contamination before the product is used for human consumption or as an ingredient in foodstuffs.

Throughout SGS global network of laboratories, we obtained the license and accreditation ISO/IEC 17025 for aflatoxin testing in food products. We can help you to analyze these compounds. Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information.

¹ [Qualitative and quantitative detection of aflatoxin B₁ in poultry sera by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay](#)

² [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 165/2010 of 26 February 2010 amending Regulation \(EC\) No 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs as regards aflatoxins](#)

Table 1 Summary of the [new EU maximum level of total aflatoxin in foodstuff](#)

Foodstuff			New EU maximum level (µg/kg)			
			B ₁	Sum of B ₁ , B ₂ , G ₁ and G ₂	M ₁	
Tree nuts	Almonds, pistachios, apricot kernels	Ready-to eat	8	10	-	
		For further processing	12	15	-	
	Hazelnuts, Brazil nuts	Ready-to eat	5	10	-	
		For further processing	8	15	-	
	Other tree nuts	Ready-to eat	2	4	-	
		For further processing	5	10	-	
Oilseed (Not for crushing)	Peanuts	Ready-to eat	2	4	-	
		For further processing	8	15	-	
	Other oilseeds	Ready-to eat	2	4	-	
		For further processing	8	15	-	
	Cereals	Corn	Ready-to eat	2	4	-
			For further processing	5	10	-
Rice		Ready-to eat	2	4	-	
		For further processing	5	10	-	
Other cereals		Ready-to eat	2	4	-	
		For further processing	5	10	-	
	Raw milk	For further processing	-	-	0.05	
	Spices		5	10	-	
	Processed cereal-based food, baby food		0.1	-	-	
	Infant formulate , infant milk, milk		-	-	0.025	
	Dietary foods for medical purpose		0.10	-	0.025	

FOR ENQUIRIES:

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