

CHINA UPDATES THE NATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR MAXIMUM LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

On 29 January, 2013, the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China published Bulletin No.21 of 2012, announcing the update of China national safety standard, GB 2762-2012 National food safety standard maximum levels of contaminants in foods, effective 1 June 2013.

GB 2762-2012 identified contaminant MRLs in food published in all old versions of food standards. It integrated and modified the MRLs of Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Arsenic, Benzo(a)pyrene and N-dimethylnitrosamine, etc –13 contaminants in total. This covers 20 general food products, including cereal, vegetable, fruit, meat, aquatic products, seasoning, beverage and wine. Additionally, Selenium, Aluminum, Fluorine were deleted in the new standard which now defines 160 MRLs. The standard complies with the requirements of food contaminants control in mainland China, and the MRLs are almost the same as those published by CAC.

In appendix A of the updated standard, it defines foodstuff category details, which can be used for identifying the MRLs in a product scope. It involves 22 foodstuff classes, its subclasses and second subclasses.

GB 2762 is one of the important food basic standards in the China mainland, other relevant basic standards are:

- GB 2760-2011 National food safety standard uses of food additives
- GB 2761-2011 National food safety standard Maximum levels of mycotoxins in foods
- GB 2762-2012 National food safety standard Maximum levels of contaminants in foods
- GB 2763-2012 National food safety standard Maximum residue limits for pesticides in food

Recently, a new standard for microbiology control in food product is being studied.



Reference:

<http://www.moh.gov.cn/mohwsjdj/s7891/201301/2b2e7eaf16647aeace32b490a03ad10.shtml>

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