

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

FOOD

NO. 123/14 JUNE 2014

EU REGULATION ON METHODS FOR SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF DIOXINS

On 2 June 2014, Commission Regulation (EU) No. 589/2014¹ was implemented, laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the control of levels of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs in certain foodstuffs. This new regulation replaces the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 252/2012².

The Commission Regulation (EU) No. 252/2012² described in detail the methods for sampling and methods of analysis for the official control of dioxins, dioxin-like and non-dioxin-like PCB's in certain foodstuffs. It allowed screening methods of analysis with widely acceptable validation and high throughput to be used to identify samples with significant levels of PCDD/Fs and dioxin-like PCBs (preferably selecting samples exceeding action levels and ensuring the selection of samples exceeding maximum levels). The only limitation was that the levels of PCDD/Fs and dioxin-like PCBs in these samples needed to be determined by a confirmatory method of analysis such as **High Resolution** gas chromatography coupled to high resolution mass spectrometry (GC-HRMS).

This regulation has now been withdrawn and replaced by the Regulation (EU) No. 589/2014¹ whereby in addition to the gas chromatography/high resolution mass spectrometry (GC-HRMS), due to technical progress and developments, also gas chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (GC-MS/MS) can be used as a confirmatory method for checking compliance with the maximum level (ML). Regulation (EU) No. 252/2012² has therefore been replaced by the new Regulation No. 589/2014 which allows for the use of GC-MS/MS as an appropriate confirmatory method for checking compliance with the maximum level.

The ML for certain contaminants in foodstuffs are set out in the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006³ of 19 December 2006.



¹ [\(EU\) No. 589/2014](#)

² [\(EU\) No. 252/2012](#)

³ [\(EC\) No. 1881/2006](#)

SGS is committed to keeping you informed of regulatory news and developments. Leveraging our global network of laboratories and food experts, SGS provides a comprehensive range of food safety and quality solutions including analytical testing, audits, certifications, inspections and technical support. We continually invest in our world class testing capabilities and state-of-the-art technology to help you reduce risks, and improve food safety and quality. For further information please visit our website www.foodsafety.sgs.com.



FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre:
gcsc@sgs.com

BE– Guy Lamon, Tel: +32 03 545 8777 or
Guy.Lamon@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong,
Tel: +852 2334 4481,
mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia – Perth.
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418
au.cts@sgs.com

Europe – London – UK.
Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860
gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey.
Tel: +90 212 368 40 00
sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA.
Tel: +1 973 575 5252
uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

www.sgs.com/cgnr

© SGS Group Management SA – 2014– All rights reserved
- SGS is a registered trademark of SGS Group Management SA. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.