

AGRINFO Webinar: Upcoming EU rules on mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH)

Published by AGRINFO on 01 Jul 2025

The new EU rules on mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) – maximum levels coming in 2026–2027

Upcoming EU rules on mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) – June 2025 webinars

Update

Mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) can contaminate the food chain at various stages from harvesting to processing. Because of the potential health risks to consumers, the EU will introduce new rules in 2027 to limit their presence in food – as discussed in our June 2025 webinars.

Webinar resources

View video recordings of the webinars here:

- Upcoming new EU rules on mineral oil hydrocarbons – English
- Prochaines réglementations de l'UE sur les hydrocarbures d'huiles minérales – French
- Próximos regulamentos da UE sobre hidrocarbonetos de óleo mineral – Portuguese
- Próximas nuevas normas de la ue sobre hidrocarburos de aceites minerales – Spanish

What is changing?

As mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH) are dangerous to humans, the EU is discussing setting maximum permitted levels of MOAH in food.

The EU Member States agreed in April 2022 that they should withdraw or recall products from the market where levels of MOAH are higher than the following limits of quantification (LOQ):

- 0.5 mg/kg for dry foods with a low fat/oil content ($\leq 4\%$ fat/oil)
- 1 mg/kg for foods with a higher fat/oil content ($> 4\%$ fat/oil, $\leq 50\%$ fat/oil)
- 2 mg/kg for fats/oils or foods with $> 50\%$ fat/oil.

But these limits are not set in EU law. The EU now intends to reinforce these limits by putting maximum levels in law. This is expected to increase the food industry's monitoring of MOAH.

Mineral oil hydrocarbons fall into two main classes:

- mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH)
- mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons (MOSH).

The regulatory focus is mainly on MOAH, for which health risks have been identified due to their genotoxicity and carcinogenicity. Currently there are no EU limits for MOSH in food.

The European Commission aims to adopt maximum levels for MOAH in 2026 that will apply from 2027.

Timeline

Webinars held in June 2025

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