Chlorinated paraffins in food

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Commission Recommendation (EU) 2026/2335 on monitoring the presence of chlorinated paraffins in food

What is changing and why?

The European Commission recommends that European Union (EU) Member State authorities and the food industry should monitor chlorinated paraffins in food from 2026 to 2029.

The monitoring will cover six food categories: fish, dairy products, oils and fats, meat and eggs, processed foods, and baby food. Testing will first measure short- and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins. More detailed testing will be required if their levels exceed the thresholds set out in Table 1.

These thresholds are not legal limits, so food containing levels above them will not automatically be considered unsafe or removed from the market. The aim is to collect data to help the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to assess the risks of chlorinated paraffins.

Actions

Future regulatory action will be based on the information collected by EFSA. It is therefore in the interests of the food supply chain to ensure that EFSA has comprehensive data.

Timeline

EU Member States and the food industry should regularly submit monitoring data to EFSA (see the EFSA webpage Data collection: chemical monitoring).

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Thresholds for chlorinated paraffin content*

Food category	Threshold value (ng/g)
Fish	100 (wet weight)
Milk and dairy products	20 (wet weight)
Vegetable and animal oils and fats	1000 (fat)
Other products of animal origin	300 (fat)
Processed foods (whole meals)	50 (wet weight)
Baby food	20 (wet weight)

* Threshold values of sum of chlorinated paraffins with chain length C10–C17.

Source: Commission Recommendation 2026/2335

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