# EU to set maximum levels for furan and derivatives in baby and infant cereal-based foods

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Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum levels of the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based food for infants and young children and in baby food

Draft Annex

## What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) plans to introduce new maximum limits for furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children, and in baby food. The proposed levels are set out in Table 1.

The new rules are driven by concern about the effects of these substances in food, particularly on babies and young children. The European Food Safety Authority has identified that current levels of exposure could cause long-term liver damage.

## Actions

Exporters are encouraged to use the transitional period to gradually upgrade processes, facilities, and supply chains to ensure compliance without disrupting trade.

The World Trade Organization consultation on this proposal closed on 26 May 2026.

## Timeline

The new maximum limits are expected to apply from **1 January 2028**.

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.

## Tables & Figures

Table 1
New maximum levels of the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran, expressed as furan[1]

| Product | Maximum levels (µg/kg) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|
| Processed cereal-based food for infants and young children | 40 | |
| Dairy-based and fruit-based baby food<br>Baby food consisting of a mixture of dairy and fruit | 30 | The maximum level applies to baby food consisting of at least 80% dairy or fruit, or of a mixture of dairy and fruit |
| Other baby food | 80 | |

[1] For the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran, expressed as furan, maximum levels refer to lower bound concentrations, which are calculated on the assumption that all the values below the limit of quantification are zero. A factor of 0.83 is applied to the level of 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran and the maximum level refers to the sum of furan + (0.83 × 2-methylfuran) + (0.83 × 3-methylfuran).

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Source: Draft Annex