

# Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat food

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Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/2895](#) as regards *Listeria monocytogenes*

## What is changing and why?

In recent years, there have been an increasing number of deaths due to listeriosis among consumers in the European Union. From **1 July 2026**, the EU will apply stricter food safety requirements for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. These requirements will apply not only at the production stage, but throughout the shelf-life of food products, from production to distribution and sale to the consumer.

If an operator cannot demonstrate that the concentration of *L. monocytogenes* in a food will never be higher than 100 cfu/g, they must be able to show that the pathogen is completely absent in a 25 g portion of that food during its whole shelf-life.

This 100 cfu/g limit **does not apply to foods for infants and consumers with weakened immune defences**, who must not be exposed to any concentration of this pathogen.

## Actions

Producers of ready-to-eat foods for export to the EU should assess their current practices for control of *L. monocytogenes*. Companies that export ready-to-eat foods to the EU must be able to demonstrate that foods in which *L. monocytogenes* can grow will not exceed the 100 cfu/g limit for this pathogen throughout the product's shelf-life. Sectors particularly likely to be affected include salads, sprouts, cheese, cooked meats, smoked fish, and desserts.

This proposal has been the subject of an EU "[Have your say](#)" consultation. For more information about the concerns raised, see the Full record.

## Timeline

The Regulation will apply from **1 July 2026**.

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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