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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