Maximum levels for 3-MCPD and glycidol

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1825 as regards maximum levels of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD), 3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters in certain foods

What is changing and why?

The European Commission has set new maximum levels for 3-MCPD and glycidol in:

- baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children
- compound foods that contain more than 5% added fats/oils derived from vegetables, fish, and/or other marine organisms.

It has also reduced maximum levels of these contaminants in vegetable oils and fats, fish oils, and oils from other marine organisms that are used in the production of baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children. The changes are summarised in Table 1.

The European Food Safety Authority has expressed health concerns about the presence of these substances, especially in foods for infants and young children. In January 2025, the EU reduced the maximum levels of the sum of 3-MCPD and its esters in certain specific food products for infants and young children as shown in Table 2.

Actions

Non-EU suppliers of these products for infants, or suppliers of foods containing more than 5% fat and added vegetable oils, fats, or fish oils, should evaluate current levels of 3-MCPD and glycidol in these foods to check compliance, or consider strategies for reducing the presence of these contaminants.

Timeline

The new maximum levels apply from **1 January 2027**.

Foods that were lawfully placed on the EU market before 1 January 2027 are allowed to remain on the market until their date of minimum durability or use-by date, even if they do not comply with new maximum levels.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1: Maximum levels for 3-MCPD and glycidol in infant formulae and compound food*

Regulation 2023/915, Annex I	Products	Maximum level (µg/kg)	
		Current	New from 1 Jan 2027
5.3	Sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and its esters, expressed as 3-MCPD		
5.3.2	Vegetable oils and fats, fish oils, and oils from other marine organisms destined for baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children	750	500
5.3.3	Infant formulae:		
5.3.3.1	Infant formula (powder)	80	No change
5.3.3.2	Infant formula (liquid)	12	No change
5.3.4	Baby food	None	50
	Processed cereal-based food for infants and young children		
5.3.5	Compound food with >5% fat and added vegetable oils and fats and/or oils from fish/other marine organisms except: - infant formula and baby food - pre-fried and fried coated meat and fish		
5.3.5.1	With only oils and fats from coconut, maize, rapeseed, sunflower, soyabean, palm kernel, and olive oils	None	1,250 µg/kg fat
5.3.5.2	With only other vegetable oils and fats, fish oils, and oils from other marine organisms and their mixtures	None	2,500 µg/kg fat
5.4	Glycidyl fatty acid esters, expressed as glycidol†		
5.4.2	Vegetable oils and fats, fish oils, and oils from other marine organisms destined for baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children	500	250

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Regulation 2023/915, Annex I	Products	Maximum level (µg/kg)	
5.4.3	Infant formulae:		
5.3.3.1	Infant formula (powder)	50	No change
5.3.3.2	Infant formula (liquid)	6	No change
5.4.4	Baby food	None	25
	Processed cereal-based food for infants and young children		
5.4.5	Compound food with > 5 % fat and added vegetable oils and fats and/or oils from fish / other marine organisms except products listed in infant formula and baby food	None	1,000 µg/kg fat

* Infant formulae, follow-on formulae, food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children, and young child formulae.
† Maximum level refers to the sum of glycidyl esters, 3-MBPD fatty acid esters, and 3-MIPD fatty acid esters.

Source: Regulation 2026/1825

Table 2: 2025 revisions of maximum levels for 3-MCPD and its esters in infant formulae*

		3-MCPD maximum level (µg/kg)	
Regulation 2023/915, Annex I	Form	Previous (Regulation 2020/1322)	Current (Regulation 2024/1003)
5.3.3.1	Powder	125	80
5.3.3.2	Liquid	15	12

* Infant formulae, follow-on formulae, food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children, and young child formulae.

Source: Regulation 2026/1825

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