

Maximum levels for 3-MCPD in infant formulae

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EU reduces glycidol and 3-MCPD maximum levels in infant formula and food

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD), 3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters in certain foods

[Draft](#) Annex

Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/1003](#) of 4 April 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels for the sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters in infant formulae, follow-on formulae and food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formulae

Update

The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a new draft proposal to set or reduce maximum levels for glycidyl fatty acid esters (expressed as glycidol) and 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) – sum of 3-MCPD and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters – in certain processed cereal-based foods for babies, infants, and young children, and in vegetable oils and fats, fish oils, and oils from other marine organisms used for the production of those foods ([G/SPS/N/EU/935](#)).

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 (Regulation [2024/1003](#)).

Impacted products

Processed cereal-based food for infants and young children; compound foods containing more than 5% fat; vegetable oils and fats and/or oils from fish and/or other marine organisms added to baby food; processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children; infant formulae, follow-on formulae, and food for special medical purposes intended for babies, infants, and young children

What is changing?

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

- baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children
- compound food containing more than 5% fat, and added vegetable oils and fats and/or oils from fish and/or other marine organisms.

It also proposes reducing 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
- processed cereal-based food for infants and young children.

The proposed changes are summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has expressed health concerns about the presence of these substances in foods, especially in foods for infants and young children (EFSA [2016](#), [2018](#)).

Timeline

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

Recommended Actions

Non-EU suppliers of these products for infants should evaluate current levels of glycidyl fatty acid esters (expressed as glycidol) and 3-MCPD and its esters in these foods to check compliance or consider strategies for reducing the presence of these contaminants.

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the WTO can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the [EU SPS Enquiry Point](#) until **26 May 2026**.

Background

3-MCPD and glycidyl esters are contaminants of processed vegetable oils; free MCPDs are formed in some processed foods, particularly when high temperatures are applied to fats and oils.

Maximum levels for glycidol and for 3-MCPD were established in Regulation [2023/915](#) for:

- vegetable oils and fats
- fish oils and oils from other marine organisms
- infant formulae and follow-on formulae
- food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children, and young child formulae.

The original maximum levels for 3-MCPD and its esters in specific food products for infants and young children were established by Regulation [2020/1322](#).

Reduced maximum levels of the sum of 3-MCPD and its esters in infant formulae, follow-on formulae, food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children, and young child formulae have applied since 1 January 2025 (Regulation [2024/1003](#)). These changes are shown in Table 2.

The EU aims to set maximum levels following the principle that they should be as low as reasonably achievable when applying good practices, and on the basis of scientific advice provided by EFSA, taking into account data on the occurrence of contaminants in foodstuffs from various origins. See [EU legislation on contaminants – maximum levels explained](#).

Resources

EFSA (2016) [Risks for human health related to the presence of 3- and 2-monochloropropanediol \(MCPD\), and their fatty acid esters, and glycidyl fatty acid esters in food](#). EFSA Journal, 14(5): e04426.

EFSA (2018) [Update of the risk assessment on 3-monochloropropane diol and its fatty acid esters](#). EFSA Journal, 16(1): e05083.

European Commission (2008) [Factsheet: Food contaminants](#).

Regulation (EU) [2024/1003](#) as regards maximum levels for the sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters in infant formulae, follow-on formulae and food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formulae

Regulation (EU) [2023/915](#) on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food

Regulation (EU) [2020/1322](#) as regards maximum levels of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD), 3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters in certain foods

Regulation (EEC) No [315/93](#) laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food

Sources


[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum levels of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD), 3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters in certain foods

[Draft](#) Annex

Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/1003](#) as regards maximum levels for the sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters in infant formulae, follow-on formulae and food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formulae

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Table & Figures

Table 1 Proposed new maximum levels for glycidol and 3-MCPD in infant formulae*			
Annex I of Reg 2023/915	Products	Maximum level (µg/kg)	
		Current	Proposed (from 1 Jan 2027)
5.3	Sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and its esters		
5.3.2	Vegetable oils and fats, fish oils, and oils from other marine organisms 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 for baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children	500	250
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.			
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Source: [Draft Annex](#)

Table 2 Revised maximum levels for 3-MCPD and its esters in infant formulae*			
Entry in Annex I of Reg 2023/915	Form	3-MCPD maximum level (µg/kg)	
		Original (Reg 2020/1322)	Current (Reg 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.


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Regulation (EU) [2023/915](#)

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