

Maximum levels for 3-MCPD in infant formulae

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EU reduces 3-MCPD maximum levels in infant formula

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 EU has reduced the maximum levels of the sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters in certain food products for infants and young children.

Impacted products

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

What is changing?

The European Commission has reduced the maximum levels of the sum of 3-MCPD and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters in infant formulae, follow-on formulae, food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children, and young child formulae. The changes are shown in Table 1.

Why?

[EFSA \(2018\)](#) expressed health concerns about the presence of these substances, especially in foods for infants and young children.

Timeline

The new maximum levels will apply from **1 January 2025**.

Recommended Actions

Non-EU suppliers of these products for infants should evaluate current levels of 3-MCPD and its esters to check compliance with this Regulation, and consider strategies for reducing the presence of this contaminant.

Background

3-MCPD and its esters are contaminants that can be formed during food processing, particularly when high temperatures are applied to fats and oils.

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

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 the European Food Safety Authority (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 (2018) [Update of the risk assessment on 3-monochloropropane diol and its fatty acid esters](#). EFSA Journal, 16(1): 5083.

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

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

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


Sources

Regulation [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

Table & Figures

Table 1 Maximum levels for the sum of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters in infant formulae*			
Entry in Annex I of Reg 2023/915	Form	3-MCPD maximum level (µg/kg)	
		Current	Proposed
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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Source: Regulation (EU) [2023/915](#)

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