

Maximum levels for furan in baby and infant cereal-based foods

Published by AGRINFO on 31 Mar 2026; Revised 10 Aug 2026

EU sets maximum levels for furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based foods for infants/young children, and in baby food

Commission Regulation (EU) [2026/1890](#) of 29 July 2026 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based food for infants and young children and in baby food

Update

Due to concerns that the presence of furan and methylfurans in food could lead to possible long-term liver damage, the European Union (EU) has set maximum levels for these substances in processed cereal-based food for infants and young children, as well as in baby food.

Impacted products

Cereal-based food for infants and young children, baby food

What is changing?

The EU has set maximum levels for the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based food for infants and young children, and baby food.

The maximum levels are set out in Table 1.

Why?

In 2017, the European Food Safety Authority expressed concern that the presence of furan and methylfurans in food could cause long-term liver damage. Babies and young children are particularly at risk due to their exposure to ready-to-eat canned food ([EFSA 2017](#)). In 2024, there were several notifications to the [Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed](#) (RASFF) on the presence of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in baby food, underlining the need for regulatory action.

Timeline

The new maximum levels apply from **1 January 2028**.

Foods that were lawfully placed on the EU market before 1 January 2028 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.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Exporting countries will need to comply with stricter EU safety standards by ensuring that levels of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in infant and baby foods remain within the new maximum levels. This may require adjustments in production processes, quality control systems, and testing capacity.

The new rules could lead to higher compliance costs due to the need for additional laboratory analysis, staff training, and quality assurance systems.

The delayed implementation date provides operators with time to adapt their processes, upgrade standards, and avoid trade disruptions or product rejections.

Recommended Actions

Exporters are encouraged to use the transitional period to gradually upgrade processes, facilities, and supply chains to ensure compliance without disrupting trade.

Background

Furan can be present in canned and jarred foods as a by-product of the heat treatment (sterilisation) process used to make food safe and shelf-stable.

Resources

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

EFSA (2017) [Scientific Opinion: Risks for public health related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food](#). EFSA Journal, 15(10): e05005.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) [2026/1890](#) as regards maximum levels of the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based food for infants and young children and in baby food

Visit the [AGRINFO website](#) to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Tables & Figures

Table 1: New maximum levels for furan* and methylfurans

Product	Maximum level (µg/kg)
Processed cereal-based food for infants and young children	40
Baby food consisting of at least 80% dairy or fruit, or of a mixture of dairy and fruit	30
Other baby food	80

* "Furan" = the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran. Maximum levels refer to lower bound concentrations calculated on the assumption that all values below the limit of quantification are zero. Maximum level = sum of furan + (0.83 × 2-methylfuran) + (0.83 × 3-methylfuran).

Source: based on Regulation [2026/1890](#)

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*