

Maximum levels of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ9-THC) in hemp seeds

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Maximum levels for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ9-THC) in hemp seeds and derived products

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/915](#) of 25 April 2023 on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006

Update

Regulation [2023/915](#) sets maximum levels for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ9-THC) authorised in hemp seeds and derived products sold on the European Union (EU) market.

Impacted products

Hemp seeds and derived products

What is changing?

The maximum levels are presented in Table 1.

Why?

In 2015, the European Food Safety Authority assessed the risk to human health related to the presence of Δ9-THC in milk and dairy products ([EFSA 2015](#)).

[EFSA \(2020\)](#) published a scientific report assessing exposure to Δ9-THC, and found that the rate of 1 µg Δ9-THC per kg body weight as an acute reference dose was exceeded in certain exposure estimates. The European Commission therefore considers that maximum levels should be set for hemp seeds and derived products.

Timeline

These maximum levels for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ9-THC) apply from **1 January 2023**.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of hemp seeds and derived products must ensure that adequate measures are put in place to prevent contamination during processing in order to meet the newly established levels ([BfR 2018](#)).

Resources

BfR (2018) [Tetrahydrocannabinol levels are too high in many hemp-containing foods - health impairments are possible](#). Bundesinstitut für Risi.

EFSA (2015) [Scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of tetrahydrocannabinol \(THC\) in milk and other food of animal origin](#). EFSA Journal, 13(6): 4141.

EFSA (2020) [Acute human exposure assessment to tetrahydrocannabinol \(\$\Delta 9\$ -THC\)](#). EFSA Journal, 18(1): 5953.

Sources

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

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Table & Figures

| Table 1 Maximum levels of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ^9-THC) in hemp seeds | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Foodstuffs | New maximum level (mg/kg) |
| 2.6.1 Hemp seeds | 3.0 |
| 2.6.2 Ground hemp seeds, (partially) defatted hemp seed, and other hemp seed processed products except those listed in 2.6.3 | 3.0 |
| 2.6.3 Hemp seed oil | 7.5 |

 
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Source: Regulation [2023/915](#)

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