

Maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in fish and seafood

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Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in fish and other seafood

Annex

What is changing and why?

The EU is proposing maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in fish and certain other seafoods (see Table 1). This is because a risk assessment by the European Food Safety Authority has concluded that current exposure to inorganic arsenic continues to pose a risk to consumers of lung, bladder, and skin cancers.

Actions

Exporters should use the latest methods and standards for analysis of arsenic in foodstuffs to identify existing levels of arsenic in fish and other seafood intended for the EU market. If levels exceed the EU's proposed limits, they must be reduced.


The World Trade Organization consultation on this draft Regulation closed on 6 May 2025.

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be adopted in approximately July 2025, with new maximum levels likely to apply from the fourth quarter of 2025.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Tables & Figures

Table 1 Maximum levels of arsenic (inorganic) in certain foods	
Foods	Maximum level (mg/kg wet weight)
Fish^[1]	
Anglerfish, monkfish (<i>Lophius</i> spp.) Giant stargazer (<i>Kathetostoma giganteum</i>) Flatfishes (<i>Pleuronectiformes</i> spp.) Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) Herring (<i>Clupea</i> spp.) Rays (<i>Rajidae</i>) Shark (all species)	0.50
Crustaceans^[2]	
Crabs and crab-like crustaceans (<i>Brachyura</i> and <i>Anomura</i>) ^[3] Prawns and shrimps (all species)	0.10
Langoustines (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) Rock lobsters (<i>Jasus</i> spp.)	1.5
Other crustaceans	0.20
Molluscs	
Scallops ^[4]	0.10
Other bivalve molluscs	0.50
Cephalopods	0.050
1. Applies to muscle meat or whole fish, if intended to be eaten whole. 2. Muscle meat from appendages and abdomen (cephalothorax excluded). 3. Muscle meat from appendages only. 4. For <i>Pecten maximus</i> , adductor muscle and gonad only.	
 www.agrininfo.eu	

Source: based on [Annex](#) to the draft Regulation

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