Maximum levels of nickel in certain foods

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987 as regards maximum levels of nickel in certain foodstuffs

What is changing and why?

The EU has set maximum allowable levels for nickel in the foods listed in Table 1. This is because the daily intake of nickel via these foods is of health concern for infants, young children (up to 10 years old), and adults sensitive to nickel.

Actions

Suppliers of the foods listed in Table 1 should immediately evaluate the presence of nickel in these products.

Data collected on nickel in these foods, including cases where nickel exceeds the maximum levels set by the EU, can be submitted to the EU.

Timeline

Maximum allowable levels for nickel in the foods listed in Table 1 will apply from **1 July 2025**, except for durum wheat, rice, husked rice, pseudo cereals, millet, and oats, for which the maximum levels will apply from **1 July 2026**.

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.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Maximum levels for nickel

Food category	Products[1]	New max. level (mg/kg)[2]
Tree nuts	Chestnuts, pine nuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts	10
	Tree nuts (other)	3.5
Root, tuber, bulb vegetables		0.90
Fruiting vegetables		0.40
Brassica vegetables		0.50
Leafy vegetables	Fresh herbs	1.2
	Leafy vegetables except fresh herbs	0.50
Legume vegetables	Soy beans/ edamame	6.0
	Legume vegetables except soy/ edamame	1.0
Stem vegetables		0.40
Seaweed	Wakame	40
	Seaweed except wakame	30
Pulses	Dry beans, dry lupins/ lupini beans	12
	Pulses except dry beans/ dry lupins	4.0
Oilseeds	Sunflower seed	8.0
	Peanuts	12
	Soy beans	15
Cereals	Durum wheat, rice (except husked rice)[3]	1.5
	Husked rice[3]	2.0
	Pseudo cereals, millet[3]	3.0
	Oats[3]	5.0
	Cereals (other)	0.80
Cocoa, chocolate products	Milk chocolate (<30% total dry cocoa)	2.5
	Milk chocolate (≥30% dry cocoa, chocolate)	7.0
	Cocoa powder (drinking chocolate)	15
Infant formulae, follow-on formulae, food for special medical purposes for infants and young children, young-child formulae	Powder from soy protein isolates (with/without cow's milk proteins)	0.40
	Powder except from soy protein isolates	0.25
	Liquid	0.10
Processed cereal-based food (for infants and young children)		3.0
Baby food except fruit, vegetables juices, nectars		0.50
Fruit juices, fruit nectars and vegetable juices including those for babyfood	From passion fruits, cocoa fruits, small fruits and berries, coconut water	1.0
	From fruit other than passion fruits, cocoa fruits, small fruits, berries, coconut water	0.25

[1] For further details on the reference product (e.g. dry, wet, processed) see Annex to Regulation (EU) 2024/1987.
[2] As from 1 July 2025 except cereals indicated under [3].
[3] As from 1 July 2026

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Source: Regulation 2024/1987

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