

# Maximum levels of ochratoxin A

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New ochratoxin A maximum levels on certain dried fruits, liquorice, herbs, herbal infusions, oilseeds, nuts, cocoa powder, non-alcoholic malt beverages and date syrup from 1 January

Commission Regulation (EU) [2022/1370](#) of 5 August 2022 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of ochratoxin A in certain foodstuffs

## Update

On 8 August 2022, the European Commission published a Regulation introducing maximum levels for ochratoxin A on dried fruit other than dried vine fruit, certain liquorice products, dried herbs, certain ingredients for herbal infusions, certain oilseeds, pistachio nuts and cocoa powder, non-alcoholic malt beverages and date syrup. It also proposes to lower the maximum level for ochratoxin A in dried vine fruit, roasted coffee and soluble coffee.

## Impacted products

dried fruit, liquorice products, dried herbs, herbal infusions, oilseeds, pistachio nuts, cocoa powder, non-alcoholic malt beverages, date syrup

## What is changing?

Table 1 will replace the existing entry for ochratoxin A in Regulation 1881/2006 (subsequently replaced by [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/915](#)). Changes are highlighted.

## Why?

In 2020 EFSA updated its scientific advice on ochr) Because significant levels of ochratoxin A have been found in foods other than those already regulated, the Commission proposes to introduce maximum levels for these foods.consumer groups. Ochratoxin A maximum levels have already been established for certain foods under Regulation 1881/2006

(subsequently replaced by [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/915](#)). Because significant levels of ochratoxin A have been found in foods other than those already regulated, the Commission proposes to introduce maximum levels for these foods.

## Timeline

Date of publication: 8 August 2022.

Date of application: 1 January 2023.

Products lawfully placed on the market before 1 January 2023 may remain on the market until their date of minimum durability or use-by date (even if they exceed the new maximum levels).

## What are the major implications for exporting countries?

EU imports are regularly tested for the presence of ochratoxin A. In the first 8 months of 2022, exceedances of maximum ochratoxin A levels were reported 33 times, most commonly in relation to dried fruit, flour and rice.

## Recommended Actions

Exporters of products covered by this Regulation must review their current storage and inspection procedures in anticipation of the new levels entering into force on 1 January 2023. The EU will undertake systematic controls of imported consignments for the presence of ochratoxin A.

## Resources

EFSA (2020) [Risk assessment of ochratoxin A in food](#). EFSA Journal, 18(5): 6113.


## Sources

Commission Regulation [2022/1370](#)

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/915](#)

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## Table & Figures

| Table 1<br>Maximum levels of ochratoxin A  |  |                       |         |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------|
| Foodstuffs   |  | Maximum level (µg/kg) |         |
|  |  | New                   | Current |
| 2.2.1  | Unprocessed cereals  | 5.0                   | 5.0     |
| 2.2.2  | All products, derived/processed from unprocessed cereals, with the exception of foodstuffs listed in 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.12 and 2.2.13                                | 3.0                   | 3.0     |
| 2.2.3  | Bakery wares, cereal snacks and breakfast cereals  |                       | None    |
|  | - products not containing oilseeds, nuts or dried fruit  | 2.0                   |         |
|  | - products containing at least 20% dried vine fruit and/or dried figs  | 4.0                   |         |
|  | - other products containing oilseeds, nuts and/or dried fruit  | 3.0                   |         |
| 2.2.4  | Non-alcoholic malt beverages   | 3.0                   | None    |
| 2.2.5  | Wheat gluten not placed on the market for the final consumer   | 8.0                   | None    |
| 2.2.6  | Dried fruit  |                       |         |
|  | - dried vine fruit (currants, raisins and sultanas) and dried figs   | 8.0                   | 10.0    |
|  | - other dried fruit  | 2.0                   | None    |
| 2.2.7  | Date syrup   | 15                    | None    |
| 2.2.8  | Roasted coffee   |                       |         |
|  | - roasted coffee beans and ground roasted coffee, excluding soluble coffee   | 3.0                   | 5.0     |
|  | - soluble coffee (instant coffee)  | 5.0                   | 10.0    |
| 2.2.9  | Wine (including sparkling wine, excluding liqueur wine and wine with an alcoholic strength of not less than 15% vol.) and fruit wine                                       | 2.0                   | 2.0     |
| 2.2.10   | Aromatised wine, aromatised wine-based drinks and aromatised wine-product cocktails  | 2.0                   | 2.0     |
| 2.2.11   | Grape juice. Concentrated grape juice as reconstituted, grape nectar, grape must and concentrated grape must as reconstituted, placed on the market for the final consumer | 2.0                   | 2.0     |
| 2.2.12   | Processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children and baby foods   | 0.50                  | 0.50    |
| 2.2.13   | Dietary foods for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children   | 0.50                  | 0.50    |
| 2.2.14   | Spices, including dried spices, except <i>Capsicum</i> spp.  | 15                    | None    |
|  | <i>Capsicum</i> spp. (dried fruits thereof, whole or ground, including chillies, chilli powder, cayenne or paprika)  | 20                    |         |
|  | Mixtures of spices   | 15                    |         |
| 2.2.15   | Liquorice ( <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> , <i>Glycyrrhiza inflata</i> and other species)  |                       | None    |
|  | - liquorice root, including as an ingredient in herbal infusions   | 20                    |         |
|  | - liquorice extract for use in food in particular beverages and confectionary  | 80                    |         |
|  | - liquorice confectionary containing ≥97% liquorice extract on dry basis   | 50                    |         |
|  | - other liquorice confectionary  | 10.0                  |         |
| 2.2.16   | Dried herbs  | 10.0                  | None    |
| 2.2.17   | Ginger roots for use in herbal infusions   | 15                    | None    |
|  | Marshmallow roots, dandelion roots and orange blossoms for use in herbal infusions or in coffee substitutes  | 20                    | None    |
| 2.2.18   | Sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, (water) melon seeds, hemp seeds, soybeans  | 5.0                   | None    |
| 2.2.19   | Pistachios to be subjected to sorting, or other physical treatment, before placing on the market for final consumer or use as ingredient in food                           | 10.0                  | None    |
|  | Pistachios placed on the market for final consumer or use as ingredient in foodstuffs  | 5.0                   | None    |
| 2.2.20   | Cocoa powder   | 3.0                   | None    |
| Source: Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1370, Annex  |  |                       |         |
|  <a href="http://www.agrinfo.eu">www.agrinfo.eu</a> |  |                       |         |

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