# Maximum levels of perfluoroalkyl substances in foods

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Regulation (EU) 2022/2388 on maximum levels of perfluoroalkyl substances in certain foods

## What is changing and why?

This Regulation introduces perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as a new category of contaminants. It sets maximum levels for PFAS in eggs, fish, crustaceans, bivalve molluscs, meat, and animal products (details in Table 1). Limiting production and use of PFAS in food processing and packaging will help limit future dietary exposure.

## Actions

Exporters of dairy and animal products, fish and seafood, meat, and livestock should review existing levels of PFAS in their products. Where they exceed the EU's limits, they must take action to reduce those levels.

## Timeline

Maximum levels of PFAS apply since 1 January 2023.

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 of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**

| Food category | Products | Maximum level (µg/kg wet weight) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | PFOS | PFOA | PFNA | PFHxS | Max. sum[1] |
| Meat, edible offal | Bovine, pig, poultry meat | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| | Sheep meat | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.6 |
| | Bovine, sheep, pig, poultry offal | 6.0 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 8.0 |
| | Game meat (except bear) | 5.0 | 3.5 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 9.0 |
| | Game offal (except bear) | 50.0 | 25.0 | 45.0 | 3.0 | 50.0 |
| Fishery products, bivalve molluscs | Muscle meat of Baltic herring, bonito, burbot, European sprat, flounder, grey mullet, horse mackerel, pike, plaice, sardine and pilchard, seabass, sea catfish, sea lamprey, tench, vendace, silverly lightfish, wild salmon and wild trout, wolf fish[2] | 7.0 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 8.0 |
| | Muscle meat of anchovy, barbel, bream, char, eel, pike-perch, perch, roach, smelt, whitefish (*Coregonus* species)[2] | 35.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 1.5 | 45 |
| | Muscle meat of other fish (and of above species if intended for infants and young children) | 2.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 2.0 |
| | Crustaceans[3] and bivalve molluscs[4] | 3.0 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 5.0 |
| Eggs | | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 1.7 |

1 The sum of the individual levels may not exceed this number, which is the maximum allowable level of all PFAS combined. PFOS, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid; PFOA, perfluorooctanoic acid; PFNA, perfluorononanoic acid; PFHxS, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid.
2 If not intended for infants and young children.
3 Muscle meat from appendages and abdomen (cephalothorax excluded); in case of crabs and crab-like crustaceans, muscle meat from appendages only. For canned crustaceans, maximum level applies to whole content of can.
4 If *Pecten maximus*, adductor muscle and gonad only.

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Source: based on Annex to Regulation (EU) 2022/2388


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