N-nitrosamines in food

Published by AGRINFO on 29 Oct 2026

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2026/2329 on monitoring the presence of N-nitrosamines in food

What is changing and why?

The European Commission has published a Recommendation that European Union (EU) authorities and food business operators should monitor N-nitrosamines in food. The European Food Safety Authority has identified the presence of these substances in foods as a potential health concern. However, more data is needed, particularly on the presence of N-nitrosamines in processed meats, alcoholic beverages, processed vegetables and cereals, milk and dairy products, and fermented, pickled, and spiced foods. This data will help the EU to identify measures that can reduce this risk.

Actions

Food businesses and competent authorities in exporting countries may wish to review processing practices, particularly the use of nitrates and nitrites, and identify conditions that could contribute to N-nitrosamine formation. Following the developments in EU monitoring and risk assessments will help exporters to anticipate potential future regulatory changes.

Timeline

EU Member States and the food industry should regularly submit monitoring data to EFSA (see the EFSA webpage Data collection: chemical monitoring).

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.

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European*

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Union.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*