

Circular

17 March 2020

To all Food Importers / Manufacturers

All declaring agents are requested to inform the importers of the contents of this circular.

Dear Sir/Madam

MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR MARINE BIOTOXINS, INORGANIC ARSENIC, AND METHANOL IN FOOD

Maximum limits for incidental constituents in food, commonly termed as “contaminants” are specified under the Food Regulations. The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) continuously reviews and updates maximum limits for incidental constituents under the Food Regulations in order to safeguard consumer health and to meet the changing needs of the food industry. Maximum limits are published on SFA’s website to provide greater transparency to the industry on Singapore’s requirements.

2 SFA has assessed the risk on the presence of marine biotoxins, inorganic arsenic and methanol in various food commodities, and will impose maximum limits for these contaminants in the food commodities listed in **Annex A**. These new maximum limits are more trade facilitative than existing maximum limits and are in-line with the relevant Codex standards or regulatory standards of major developed countries.

3 SFA will administer the maximum limits for the specified contaminants in food commodities listed in **Annex A** with effect from **1 April 2020**. All traders are reminded to ensure that food products made available for sale on or after 1 April 2020 comply with these requirements.

4 The complete list of maximum limits for contaminants in food is available on our website at www.sfa.gov.sg.

ISSUED BY:

FOOD REGULATORY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SINGAPORE FOOD AGENCY

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ANNEX A: Maximum limits for marine biotoxins, inorganic arsenic and methanol in specified food commodities

Contaminant	Commodity	Maximum limit
Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP)	Bivalve molluscs	0.80 mg saxitoxin equivalent /kg flesh
Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisons (DSP)	Bivalve molluscs	0.16 mg okadaic acid equivalent /kg flesh
Amnesic Shellfish Poisons (ASP)	Bivalve molluscs	20 mg domoic acid /kg flesh
Brevetoxins (PbTXs)	Bivalve molluscs	0.80 mg brevetoxin-2 equivalent /kg
Azaspiracids (AZA)	Bivalve molluscs	0.160 mg azaspiracid-1 equivalent /kg
Histamine	Fish	100 ppm
Inorganic Arsenic ¹	Fish	2 ppm
	Crustaceans	2 ppm
	Molluscs	1 ppm
Methanol	Red wine, white wine and fortified wine	3g methanol/ L of ethanol
	Whisky, rum, gin and vodka	0.4g methanol/ L of ethanol
	Other spirits, fruit wine, vegetable wine and mead	8g methanol/ L of ethanol

¹ The arsenic (total) limits for “fish, crustaceans and molluscs” under the Tenth Schedule no longer apply. Please refer to inorganic arsenic maximum limits for fish, crustaceans and molluscs.