

Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2025

2nd Technical Meeting
31 July 2025

Outline

- **Background**
- **Amendment Regulation**
- **Way forward**



Background



Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address-Supplement

- **One of the Policy Measures**
 - In 2024-25, review food safety standards regarding metal content in food under the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) (the Regulations) with reference to international standards and practices, with a view to formulating legislative amendment proposals and launching public consultation.



- **Public consultation ended on 16 February 2025.**

Gazettal and Approval by the Legislative Council of the Amendment Regulation

- **The Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2025 (Amendment Regulation) was gazetted on 27 June 2025.**
- **Approved by the Legislative Council through the negative vetting procedure on 30 July 2025.**



Amendment Regulation



Amendment Regulation

- 1) To add or update the Maximum Levels (MLs) in the Regulations with reference to the Codex latest standards for lead, cadmium and methylmercury in food;
- 2) To add or update the MLs for lead and cadmium in edible fungi in the Regulations;
- 3) To add MLs for lead in sugars;
- 4) To update the MLs for lead in “Fat spreads and blended spreads” and “Lime preserved eggs” in the Regulations.



(1) With reference to the Codex standards

- **Set 22 MLs for metallic contaminants in specified foods with reference to Codex (add 16 and update 6)**

➤ Add

- Lead: 5 (grape juice, 3 fresh farmed mushrooms, foods for infant and young children, honey and candies)
- Cadmium: 5 (chocolate products)
- Methylmercury: 6 (specified fish species)

➤ Update

- Lead: 6 (edible offal, edible fats and oils, salt and mango chutney)



Lead : Add or update 11 MLs with reference to Codex

Lead : Add 5 MLs		
	Food items	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Grape juice	0.04
2	Fresh farmed mushrooms (common mushrooms (<i>Agaricus bisporus</i>), shiitake mushrooms (<i>Lentinula edodes</i>), and oyster mushrooms (<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>))	0.3
3	Cereal-based food intended to be consumed principally by persons under the age of 36 months.	0.02
4	Ready-to-eat complementary food (other than cereal-based food) intended to be consumed principally by persons under the age of 36 months	0.02
5	Sugar-based candies and honey	0.1



Lead : Add or update 11 MLs with reference to Codex

Lead : Update 6 MLs			
	Food items	Existing ML (mg/kg)	ML in the Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
6	Mango chutney	1	0.4
7	Edible offal of cattle	0.5	0.2
8	Edible offal of pig	0.5	0.15
9	Edible offal of poultry	0.5	0.1
10	Edible fats and oils	0.1	0.08
11	Salt, food grade, other than salt from marshes, food grade	2 (Salt, food grade)	1



Methylmercury : Add 6 MLs for specified fish with reference to Codex

Methylmercury: Add 6 MLs			
	Food items	Existing ML (mg/kg)	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Tuna	0.5 (Fish)	1.2
2	Alfonsino	0.5 (Fish)	1.5
3	Marlin	0.5 (Fish)	1.7
4	Shark	0.5 (Fish)	1.6
5	Orange roughy	0.5 (Fish)	0.8
6	Pink cusk-eel	0.5 (Fish)	1



MLs for methylmercury in other fish and “Fish balls and fish cakes”

- **Maintain the existing ML for methylmercury in “Fish” at 0.5 mg/kg in the Regulations for fish other than these 6 specified fish species.**
- **Add ML for methylmercury in “fish balls and fish cakes” at 0.5 mg/kg**

	Food items	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Fish (other than those fish specified in this item), fish balls and fish cakes	0.5



Cadmium: Add 5 MLs for chocolate products with reference to Codex

Cadmium: Add 5 MLs		
	Food items	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis) ready for consumption	2
2	Chocolates containing or declaring $\geq 70\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis	0.9
3	Chocolates containing or declaring $\geq 50\%$ to $< 70\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis	0.8
4	Chocolates containing or declaring $\geq 30\%$ to $< 50\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis	0.7
5	Chocolates containing or declaring $< 30\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis	0.3



(2) (i) Cadmium: Add 6 MLs for edible fungi with reference to the latest Mainland standards

	Food items	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Edible fungi (other than those edible fungi specified in this item)	0.2
2	Shiitake mushrooms (<i>Lentinula edodes</i>)	0.5
3	Morels (<i>Morchella importuna</i>), shingled hedgehogs (<i>Sarcodon imbricatus</i>), green-cracking russulas (<i>Russula virescens</i>), chanterelles (<i>Cantharellus</i> spp.) and honey mushrooms (<i>Armillaria mellea</i>)	0.6
4	Bolete mushrooms (<i>Boletus bainiugan</i> , <i>Lanmaoa asiatica</i> , <i>Sutorius brunneissimus</i> , <i>Rugiboletus extremiorientalis</i>), matsutake mushrooms (<i>Tricholoma matsutake</i>), termite mushrooms (<i>Termitomyces</i> spp.) and tawny milkcaps (<i>Lactarius volemus</i>)	1
5	Truffles (<i>Tuber</i> spp.) and himematsutake mushrooms (<i>Agaricus blazei</i>)	2
6	Wood ears (<i>Auricularia cornea</i> , <i>Auricularia heimuer</i>) and white jelly mushrooms (<i>Tremella fuciformis</i>)	0.5 (Applies to products in dried form.)

(2) (ii) Lead : Add 3 and update 1 MLs for edible fungi with reference to the latest Mainland standards

Lead: Add 3 MLs		
	Food items	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Honey mushrooms (<i>Armillaria mellea</i>)	0.3
2	Bolete mushrooms (<i>Boletus bainiugan</i> , <i>Lanmaoa asiatica</i> , <i>Sutorius brunneissimus</i> , <i>Rugiboletus extremiorientalis</i>), matsutake mushrooms (<i>Tricholoma matsutake</i>), truffles (<i>Tuber</i> spp.), green-cracking russulas (<i>Russula virescens</i>), termite mushrooms (<i>Termitomyces</i> spp.), chanterelles (<i>Cantharellus</i> spp.) and tawny milkcaps (<i>Lactarius volemus</i>)	1
3	Wood ears (<i>Auricularia cornea</i> , <i>Auricularia heimuer</i>) and white jelly mushrooms (<i>Tremella fuciformis</i>)	1 (Applies to products in dried form.)

Lead: Update 1 ML			
	Food items	Existing ML (mg/kg)	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
4	Edible fungi (other than those edible fungi specified in this item)	1 (Edible fungi)	0.5



(3) MLs for lead in “White sugar, refined sugar, corn syrups and maple syrups”, and “Soft brown sugar, raw sugar and non-centrifugal sugar”

- **Add MLs for lead in “White sugar, refined sugar, corn syrups and maple syrups”, and “Soft brown sugar, raw sugar, and non-centrifugal sugar”.**

➤ with reference to relevant standards of the Mainland and Korea.

Lead: Add 2 MLs		
	Food items	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	White sugar, refined sugar, corn syrups and maple syrups	0.5
2	Soft brown sugar, raw sugar and non-centrifugal sugar	0.5



(4) ML for lead in “Fat spreads and blended spreads” and “Lime preserved eggs”

- **Update the ML for lead in “Fat spreads and blended spreads” and “Lime preserved eggs” in the Regulations.**
- **In line with the latest standards of the Mainland.**

Lead: Update 2 MLs			
	Food items	Existing ML (mg/kg)	ML in Amendment Regulation (mg/kg)
1	Fat spreads and blended spreads	0.1	0.08
2	Lime preserved eggs	0.5	0.2



To update the MLs for lead, cadmium and methylmercury in food

- With reference to Codex standards as the backbone
- Supplemented with the standards of major food importing places (including Mainland China)

Number of MLs under existing Cap.132V :		144
+	Number of new MLs :	27
	Number of updated MLs :	9
Number of MLs after amendments :		171



Way forward



Commencement & Grace period

- **The Amendment Regulation will come into operation on 5 September 2025 with a grace period of 18 months.**
- **Grace period from 5 September 2025 to 5 March 2027.**



Thank you

