

Seafood — HMTc Program Manual

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Scope and method

Every limit on every subcategory is the strictest maximum level set by any credible government worldwide, converted to the product's native basis, with a disclosed read-across from the nearest government value where no government regulates the exact product. Nothing is invented; every number traces to a named sovereign limit in the [regulation references](#).

Method: [government-limit default \(Method v2.0\)](#). Seafood limits are taken at face value in each product's native basis; there is no reconstitution conversion. [Mercury](#) is limited in both forms, total mercury (Hg) and methylmercury (MeHg), set to the species-specific tier each government assigns (predatory fish carry the higher ceiling, lower-trophic species the lower; where the total-mercury ceiling is stricter, methylmercury is bounded by it). Every claim analyte is equal at the gate: a product is certified only at or below 100% of each published government floor or disclosed read-across. An exceedance on any metal enters Remediation unmarked; there is no transitional overage. Total [arsenic](#) operates as a reflex screen to inorganic-arsenic speciation. Every panel analyte carries a limit of record; where no government regulates the exact product ([nickel](#), [hexavalent chromium](#), [aluminium](#), and non-canned [tin](#)), the ceiling is a disclosed read-across to the nearest applicable sovereign instrument named in the derivation. Tin migrates from the can, so for non-[canned seafood](#) the read-across is a packaging-migration baseline.

Master limit matrix

All values ppb (µg/kg) in each row's native basis. Click any subcategory for its full government-by-government derivation. n/m = not material in the matrix; controlled by screen or reflex speciation, not a number.

Subcategory	Pb	iAs	tAs	Hg	MeHg	Cd	Ni	Cr	Cr-VI	Sn	Al	Basis
Marine predatory fish (tuna, swordfish, shark, king mackerel, marlin)	200	100	1000	1000	1000	50	2000	1000	10	200000	100000	as consumed
Marine non-predatory fish (sardine, anchovy, salmon, cod, herring, mackerel)	200	100	1000	300	—	50	2000	1000	10	200000	100000	as consumed
Freshwater fish (tilapia, catfish, trout, carp)	200	100	1000	300	—	50	2000	1000	10	200000	100000	as consumed
Shellfish (crustaceans and bivalve molluscs)	500	100	1000	500	500	500	2000	1000	10	200000	100000	as consumed
Cephalopods (octopus, squid, cuttlefish)	300	50	1000	300	—	1000	2000	12000	10	200000	100000	as consumed
Seaweed & kelp foods (nori, wakame, kombu, dulse)	5000	1000	5000	100	—	500	30000	2000	10	200000	100000	as sold
Canned seafood (canned tuna, canned fish)	200	100	1000	500	500	50	2000	1000	10	100000	100000	as consumed

Every claim analyte is equal at the gate. A product is certified only when every published limit is met at or below 100% of its government floor or disclosed read-across. An exceedance on any metal enters Remediation and carries no mark.

Risk Flag

These subcategories carry a natural or process background that runs above the limit — the limit being the strictest government maximum for the product, never a percentile of market data (Method v2.0). A product is not disqualified by this: only its own tested result decides certification, and a well-sourced lot can sit well below the market. What the pooled occurrence literature shows is where the work is — which ingredients demand exceptional sourcing.

▼ Inorganic arsenic

Inorganic arsenic is taken up from soil, irrigation water, and seawater; rice and rice-derived ingredients, and some seaweeds, carry it far above the strictest sovereign limits.

~4.3× Seaweed / kelp foods (nori, wakame, kombu, dulse — dried, as sold) (the 1000 ppb limit)

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▼ Cadmium

Cocoa, leafy greens, sunflower and other seeds, organ meats, [shellfish](#), seaweed, and some root vegetables concentrate [cadmium](#) from soil and seawater.

~2.7× Canned seafood (canned tuna, canned fish) (the 50 ppb limit)

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▼ Nickel

Legumes, nuts, cocoa, and oats are naturally high in nickel.

~2.6× Shellfish (crustaceans and bivalve molluscs, not canned) (the 2000 ppb limit)

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Multipliers are the ratio of the pooled occurrence median to the published limit; occurrence characterises the market only and carries no compliance weight. See [the cross-category summary](#).

About this edition

Standards are living, versioned documents; each subcategory page carries its own version history and dated change log. This is the current web edition. A consolidated, version-pinned PDF of the full manual is in preparation and will be linked here on release; until then each subcategory page is individually citable.

The literature baseline underlying these certification limits is maintained independently at the [Heavy Metal Index](#)^[7]. This certification standard applies those findings; the two are kept editorially separate by design.