

National Food Safety Standard: Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods

Karen Pendergrass · ORCID 0000-0002-2348-7259 · 2023-06-30

Karen Pendergrass. "National Food Safety Standard: Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods". <https://heavymetalcertified.com/regulations/china-gb-2762>. Retrieved 2026-09-21.

The instrument

This page records the heavy-metal maximum levels set by National Food Safety Standard: Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods, the instrument of National Health Commission (NHC) and State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), 2023. Every value below is transcribed into the Heavy Metal Index register from the primary text and is the value an HMTc standard cites when this jurisdiction binds a certification limit. It is a record of law, not an HMTc threshold.

National Food Safety Standard, official text

Published by National Health Commission (NHC) and State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR).

PRIMARY SOURCE ↗

Maximum levels

All values µg/kg (ppb), in the basis the instrument states. 20 maximum levels across 8 analytes and 19 product categories, grouped by analyte and ordered by limit.

LIMIT MG/KG	BASIS	PRODUCT SCOPE	PROVISION
LEAD (PB) 7 LIMITS			
10	as consumed	Liquid (ready-to-feed) infant formula	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as-consumed liquid
80	product as placed on market	Formula food for infants and young children (powdered infant/follow-up/toddler formula)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market, powder: 'powdered p...

LIMIT MG/KG	BASIS	PRODUCT SCOPE	PROVISION
150	product as placed on market	Formulas for special medical purposes (excl. infant FSMP), products for 1-10 year olds	GB 2762-2022 Table 1 (lead), 0.15 mg/kg calculated as solid product.
150	product as placed on market	Formulas for special medical purposes (FSMP), products for children 1-10 years old (FSMP for infants excluded from this row)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market: 'solid product basi...
200	as consumed	Complementary/supplementary foods for infants and young children	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (product as sold)
500	product as placed on market	Complementary food supplement (辅食营养补充品)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (product as sold). Re...
500	product as placed on market	Formulas for special medical purposes (FSMP), products for children over 10 years old (FSMP for infants excluded)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market: 'solid product basi...
INORGANIC ARSENIC (IAS) 4 LIMITS			
100	product as placed on market	Canned complementary foods for infants and young children, excluding products made from aquatic products and animal liver	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (canned product as so...
200	product as placed on market	Cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children, excluding products with added algae	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (product as sold). Re...
300	product as placed on market	Canned complementary foods for infants and young children: products made from aquatic products and animal liver	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (canned product as so...
300	product as placed on market	Cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children: products with added algae	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (product as sold). Re...
TOTAL ARSENIC (TAS) 3 LIMITS			
500	product as placed on market	Complementary food supplement (辅食营养补充品)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (product as sold). Re...
500	product as placed on market	milk powder and modified milk powder (GB 2762-2022 Table 4, sections 4.4.1-4.4.2); total arsenic	Category mapping to infant formula powder is a proposed fit
500	product as placed on market	Milk powder and modified milk powder (general dairy category, distinct from infant formula)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market, powder (as sold). Re...
CADMIUM (CD) 1 LIMIT			
60	product as placed on market	Cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (product as sold). Re...
MERCURY, TOTAL (THG) 1 LIMIT			

LIMIT MG/KG	BASIS	PRODUCT SCOPE	PROVISION
20	product as placed on market	Canned complementary foods for infants and young children (no methylmercury limit set for this category)	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market (canned product as so...
TIN (SN) 1 LIMIT			
50000	product as placed on market	Formula foods and complementary foods for infants and young children, packaged in tinplate (tinned-plate-sheet) containers only	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market
TOTAL CHROMIUM (CR) 1 LIMIT			
2000	product as placed on market	Milk powder and modified milk powder (general dairy category, distinct from infant formula); standard sets no hexavalent-chromium (Cr-VI) li	Worldwide-ingest 2026-08-03 (verified). Basis detail: as placed on market, powder (as sold). Re...
CHROMIUM (CR) 2 LIMITS			
300	product as placed on market	raw, pasteurized, sterilized, modified and fermented milk (GB 2762-2022 Table 7, section 4.7); total Cr, not Cr-VI	Applies to liquid milk categories
2000	product as placed on market	milk powder and modified milk powder (GB 2762-2022 Table 7, section 4.7); total Cr, not Cr-VI	Category mapping to infant formula powder is a proposed fit: Table 7 does not name infant formu...

BASIS Values appear in the basis the instrument states; no conversion is applied on this page. A standard citing a value in a different basis discloses the conversion on its own derivation table.

Where HMTc cites it

Cells where this instrument holds the strictest government value in force among credible regulators, and therefore binds a published HMTc limit. 1 published standard cites it.

Infant formula (powder)	STRICTEST
BINDS <u>CHROMIUM</u> (CR)	

Rows appear here only once the citing standard is published. A limit recorded above that binds nothing today may still bind later, as other jurisdictions relax or as a new subcategory is published.

How this interacts with HMTc

HMTc certification standards adopt the *strictest existing* maximum level set by any credible government, applied cell-by-cell. Where this instrument holds the strictest value for a (product, analyte) cell, it binds the HMTc limit and the standard cites this page. This page does not set or justify any HMTc threshold; it records the sovereign requirement the program measures against.

A reference page is a record of law, not an HMTc threshold. It states what a government requires; the standard page states what the program requires, and names which instrument binds each cell.