

Baby cereals & dry grain products: HMTc Standard

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KEYWORDS

heavy metals, food safety, dietary exposure

PUBLICATION HISTORY

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CORRESPONDENCE

Corrections are logged publicly on the article page, each with its date, the affected value, and the source that resolved it.

Abstract

The Heavy Metal Tested & Certified standard for dry infant cereals and grain products, stated as-sold. Rice-based products carry a distinct inorganic-arsenic limit. Every limit is the strictest maximum level any credible government sets, converted to the as-sold basis, with read-across where no government regulates the exact product.

1 | How every number on this standard is set

HMTc Method v2.0 (government-limit default, 8:1 basis, read-across)

2 | Master limit table

All values in ppb (µg/kg), as sold basis. A brand meeting every value qualifies for the mark.

Variants on this standard: rice-based and non-rice. Where a cell differs between them the limit column shows both (value per variant); the derivation below is stated for rice-based.

ANALYTE	TIER	HMTc LIMIT	BASIS
Lead (Pb)	Tier 1	20	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	Tier 1	40	government maximum level

Total arsenic (tAs)	Tier 2	50	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	Tier 1	20	human-grade read-across (European Union)
Mercury, total (tHg)	Tier 1	8	human-grade read-across (Israel)
Methylmercury (MeHg)	Tier 1	—	not compiled
Nickel (Ni)	Tier 2	3,000	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	Tier 2	5,000	government maximum level
Aluminium (Al)	Tier 2	500	human-grade read-across (Australia / New Zealand)
Total chromium (Cr)	Tier 2	1,000	government maximum level
Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	Tier 2	—	not compiled

3 | Derivation — where each number comes from

Every cell traces to one named sovereign maximum level (the strictest for the nearest analog), or to an explicit control, not-material, or species-bounded determination. No occurrence statistic selects a certification value.

ANALYTE	HMTC	SOVEREIGN ANALOG / DETERMINATION
Lead (Pb)	20	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	40	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	50	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	20	European Union — human-food analog
Mercury, total (tHg)	8	Israel — human-food analog
Methylmercury (MeHg)	—	not compiled
Nickel (Ni)	3,000	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	5,000	government maximum level
Aluminium (Al)	500	Australia / New Zealand — human-food analog
Total chromium (Cr)	1,000	government maximum level

4 | Cite this standard

Pendergrass, K. (2026). *Baby cereals & dry grain products: HMTc standard* (Standard No. 10.83138/hmtc.std.1.baby-cereals-dry). Institute of Contaminant Standards.
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References

- [1] Australia / New Zealand — human-food maximum levels
Binds Al. Strictest applicable human-food sovereign maximum for the nearest analog.
MAXIMUM LEVEL
- [2] European Union — human-food maximum levels
Binds iAs. Strictest applicable human-food sovereign maximum for the nearest analog.
MAXIMUM LEVEL
- [3] Israel — human-food maximum levels
Binds tHg. Strictest applicable human-food sovereign maximum for the nearest analog.
MAXIMUM LEVEL

STATUS AND LICENCE

A normative certification standard, editorially reviewed and version-controlled in-house; every value traces to a named sovereign maximum level, disclosed in the derivation. © 2026 Institute of Contaminant Standards / Heavy Metal Certified. All rights reserved.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The works this reference draws on are listed in full in the references above and on the briefing page at <https://heavymetalcertified.com/standards/baby-cereals-dry>. Primary legal instruments and expert-body assessments are named with their public identifiers; the underlying occurrence and toxicology corpus is maintained on the Heavy Metal Index.

COMPETING INTERESTS

This briefing is published by the Heavy Metal Tested & Certified (HMTc) program, operated by the Institute of Contaminant Standards. Its statements about government regulations, toxicology, and occurrence are sourced to the cited primary and expert-body records and to the independently maintained Heavy Metal Index; the program's own certification thresholds are not used as evidence for any factual claim made here.

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