

Infant formula (powder): 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 infant formula in powder form, stated as-sold. Every limit is the strictest maximum level any credible government sets, converted to the as-sold basis; where no government regulates the exact product, the limit is read across from the nearest government value.

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.

ANALYTE	TIER	HMTc LIMIT	BASIS
Lead (Pb)	Tier 1	20	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	Tier 1	20	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	Tier 2	50	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	Tier 1	20	government maximum level

Mercury, total (tHg)	Tier 1	15	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	Tier 1	—	not compiled
Nickel (Ni)	Tier 2	400	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	Tier 2	5,000	government maximum level
Aluminium (Al)	Tier 2	8,000	government maximum level
Total chromium (Cr)	Tier 2	2,000	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)	20	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	50	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	20	government maximum level
Mercury, total (tHg)	15	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	—	not compiled
Nickel (Ni)	400	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	5,000	government maximum level
Aluminium (Al)	8,000	government maximum level
Total chromium (Cr)	2,000	government maximum level
Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	—	not compiled

4 | Cite this standard

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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/infant-formula-powder>. 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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This revision 2026-08. The full dated record is maintained at <https://heavymetalcertified.com/standards/infant-formula-powder>.