

Infant formula (ready-to-feed, liquid): 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 ready-to-feed liquid infant formula, stated as-consumed. Every limit is the strictest maximum level any credible government sets for the liquid product form, converted to the as-consumed 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 consumed basis. A brand meeting every value qualifies for the mark.

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

ANALYTE	TIER	HMTc LIMIT	BASIS
Lead (Pb)	Tier 1	10	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	Tier 1	5 cow / 10 soy	government maximum level

Total arsenic (tAs)	Tier 2	50	human-grade read-across (India)
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	Tier 1	10	government maximum level
Mercury, total (tHg)	Tier 1	4	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	Tier 1	—	not compiled
Nickel (Ni)	Tier 2	100	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	Tier 2	5,000	government maximum level
Aluminium (Al)	Tier 2	500 cow / 1,000 soy	government maximum level
Total chromium (Cr)	Tier 2	300	human-grade read-across (China)
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)	10	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	5	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	50	India — human-food analog
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	10	government maximum level
Mercury, total (tHg)	4	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	—	not compiled
Nickel (Ni)	100	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	5,000	government maximum level
Aluminium (Al)	500	government maximum level
Total chromium (Cr)	300	China — human-food analog
Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	—	not compiled

4 | Cite this standard

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References

- [1] China — human-food maximum levels
Binds Cr. Strictest applicable human-food sovereign maximum for the nearest analog.
MAXIMUM LEVEL
- [2] India — human-food maximum levels
Binds tAs. 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/infant-formula-ready-to-feed>. 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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