

Salt (table, sea, Himalayan): HMTc Standard

Karen Pendergrass ·  · Heavy Metal Tested & Certified, Institute of Contaminant Standards

CITE AS

Pendergrass, K. (2026). Salt (table, sea, Himalayan): HMTc Standard. Institute of Contaminant Standards.

© 2026 Institute of Contaminant Standards / Heavy Metal Certified. All rights reserved.

KEYWORDS

heavy metals, food safety, dietary exposure

PUBLICATION HISTORY

This revision 2026-08.

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 Salt (table, sea, Himalayan) (Herbs, Spices, Seasonings and Salt), stated as sold. Each analyte carries the strictest applicable government maximum level in the product's native basis, with a disclosed read-across or a mandatory control where no government regulates the exact product.

1 | How every number on this standard is set

HMTc Method v2.0 (government-limit default; explicit-id lookup; legislated product-form splits preserved; dried-spice basis discipline)

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	1,000	strictest government ML, set by product form
Cadmium (Cd)	Tier 1	500	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	Tier 2	500	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	Tier 1	500	government maximum level

Mercury, total (tHg)	Tier 1	100	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	Tier 1	n/m	not material in this matrix
Nickel (Ni)	Tier 2	—	—
Tin (Sn)	Tier 2	n/m	not material in this matrix
Aluminium (Al)	Tier 2	n/m	not material in this matrix
Total chromium (Cr)	Tier 2	—	—
Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	Tier 2	n/m	not material in this matrix

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)	1,000	strictest government ML, set by product form
Cadmium (Cd)	500	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	500	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	500	government maximum level
Mercury, total (tHg)	100	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	n/m	Methylmercury is the organomercury speciation of mercury and is arithmetically bounded by total mercury (MeHg <= tHg); a mineral salt carries no mercury source and no methylmercury formation pathway, and salt mercury is regulated as total mercury, which the tHg standard caps, bounding any organomercury fraction.
Nickel (Ni)	—	—
Tin (Sn)	n/m	No tin source in a boxed/bagged mineral salt; tin is a tinplate-can migration pathway only.

Aluminium (Al)	n/m	Aluminium in salt derives from permitted anti-caking additives (e.g. sodium aluminosilicate, GRAS in US table salt per 21 CFR 182.2727), not contamination, and is managed by additive law plus intake against the EFSA/JECFA TWI, not by a per-food contaminant maximum level. Matches the existing salt/Al determination in standards-not--material.csv.
Total chromium (Cr)	—	—
Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	n/m	Hexavalent chromium is the Cr(VI) speciation of chromium and is bounded by the total-chromium control (Cr-VI <= total Cr), which is screened for salt; no jurisdiction sets a Cr-VI food maximum level. There is no chromium adulteration pathway in a mineral salt (unlike turmeric/chili, salt is not colour-adulterated with lead chromate), so any trace chromium is geologic chromium(III). Rebuttable if a routed source reports hexavalent chromium in salt.

4 | Cite this standard

Pendergrass, K. (2026). *Salt (table, sea, Himalayan): HMTc standard*. Institute of Contaminant Standards.

© 2026 Institute of Contaminant Standards / Heavy Metal Certified. All rights reserved.

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/salt>. Primary legal instruments and expert-body assessments are named with

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.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

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

their public identifiers; the underlying occurrence and toxicology corpus is maintained on the Heavy Metal Index.