

Breakfast cereal, rice-based,: HMTc Standard

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

CITE AS

Pendergrass, K. (2026). Breakfast cereal, rice-based,: HMTc Standard (Standard No. 10.83138/hmtc.std.3.breakfast-cereal-rice-based). Institute of Contaminant Standards.
<https://doi.org/10.83138/hmtc.std.3.breakfast-cereal-rice-based>
© 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 rice-based breakfast cereal, puffed rice, rice flakes, crisped rice, stated as sold. As a finished rice product it carries the EU rice-products inorganic-arsenic maximum (300 ppb); infant rice cereal is a distinct product held to the stricter 100 ppb infant maximum in the Infant and Child Foods volume. Every limit is the strictest maximum level any credible government sets for the 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.

ANALYTE	TIER	HMTc LIMIT	BASIS
Lead (Pb)	Tier 1	200	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	Tier 1	100	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	Tier 2	300	government maximum level

Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	Tier 1	300	government maximum level
Mercury, total (tHg)	Tier 1	20	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	Tier 1	≤ tHg	bounded by tHg (reflex speciation)
Nickel (Ni)	Tier 2	1,500	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	Tier 2	250,000	human-grade read-across (Singapore)
Aluminium (Al)	Tier 2	100,000	human-grade read-across (China)
Total chromium (Cr)	Tier 2	1,000	government maximum level
Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	Tier 2	≤ Cr	bounded by Cr (reflex speciation)

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)	200	government maximum level
Cadmium (Cd)	100	government maximum level
Total arsenic (tAs)	300	government maximum level
Inorganic arsenic (iAs)	300	government maximum level
Mercury, total (tHg)	20	government maximum level
Methylmercury (MeHg)	≤ tHg	MeHg carries no product-specific sovereign cell; it is a component of and bounded by its parent total tHg (MeHg ≤ tHg), an enforceable ceiling via reflex speciation rather than an empty cell.
Nickel (Ni)	1,500	government maximum level
Tin (Sn)	250,000	Singapore — human-food analog
Aluminium (Al)	100,000	China — human-food analog
Total chromium (Cr)	1,000	government maximum level

Hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI)	$\leq$ Cr	Cr-VI carries no product-specific sovereign cell; it is a component of and bounded by its parent total Cr (Cr-VI $\leq$ Cr), an enforceable ceiling via reflex speciation rather than an empty cell.
-----------------------------	-----------	--

4 | Cite this standard

Pendergrass, K. (2026). *Breakfast cereal, rice-based,: HMTc standard* (Standard No. 10.83138/hmtc.std.3.breakfast-cereal-rice-based). Institute of Contaminant Standards. <https://doi.org/10.83138/hmtc.std.3.breakfast-cereal-rice-based>

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

References

- [1] China — human-food maximum levels
Binds Al. Strictest applicable human-food sovereign maximum for the nearest analog.
MAXIMUM LEVEL
- [2] Singapore — human-food maximum levels
Binds Sn. 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/breakfast-cereal-rice-based>. 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.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

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