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EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, **XXX**
SANTE/10120/2019
[...] (2019) **XXX** draft

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of **XXX**

on the monitoring of the presence of furan and alkyl furans in food

(Text with EEA relevance)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 292 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM) adopted a scientific opinion on the risks for public health related to the presence of furans and methylfurans in food¹.
- (2) EFSA concluded that the current exposure to furan indicates a health concern. Also methylfurans may add significantly to the overall exposure and therefore increase the health concern.
- (3) It is acknowledged that there are insufficient data available on the presence of methylfurans in food. Furthermore recent information has become available on the presence of another alkylfuran, i.e. 2-pentylfuran in foods for infant and young children.
- (4) It is therefore appropriate to recommend the monitoring of furan and alkylfurans in food

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

1. Member States and food business operators should perform the monitoring of furan, 2-methylfuran, 3-methylfuran, 2,5 dimethylfuran and 2-pentylfuran in food, in particular in coffee, jarred baby food (including baby food in containers, tubes, pouches), potato based crisps, fruit juices, breakfast cereals, biscuits, crackers and crispbread.
2. In order to ensure that the samples are representative, Member States should follow the sampling procedures laid down in part B of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 of 28 March 2007².

The sampling procedure applied by the food business operator may deviate from the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 but should remain representative for the lot.

¹ EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), Scientific opinion on the risks for public health related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food. EFSA Journal 2017;15(10):5005, 142 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.5005>

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 of 28 March 2007 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, 3-MCPD and benzo(a)pyrene in foodstuffs (OJ L 88, 29.3.2007, p. 29)

3. Member States and food business operators should use for the analysis of furan, 2-methylfuran, 3-methylfuran, 2,5-dimethylfuran and 2-pentylfuran in coffee and jarred baby food a method of analysis compliant with the following criteria:

Parameter	Criterion
Specificity	Free from matrix or spectral interferences
Field blanks	Less than Limit of Detection (LOD)
Repeatability (RSDr)	0.66 times RSDR as derived from (modified) Horwitz equation
Reproducibility (RSDR)	As derived from (modified) Horwitz equation
Recovery	80 – 110 %
Limit of Detection (LOD)	Three tenth of LOQ
Limit of Quantification (LOQ)	For jarred baby food: 5 µg/kg For coffee: not higher than 20 µg/kg

These criteria are also applicable for the method of analysis used for the analysis of furan in foods other than coffee and jarred baby food whereby the limit of quantification (LOQ) should not be higher than 5 µg/kg.

For the analysis of 2-methylfuran, 3-methylfuran, 2,5-dimethylfuran and 2-pentylfuran in foods other than coffee and jarred baby food, laboratories should have quality control procedures in place to ensure the reliability of the obtained analytical results whereby the limit of quantification (LOQ) should not be higher than 5 µg/kg

4. Member States and food business operators should provide to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) by 1 October of each year, the data for the previous year for compilation into one database in line with the requirements of EFSA's Guidance on Standard Sample Description (SSD) for Food and Feed and the additional EFSA's specific reporting requirements³.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Member of the Commission

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<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/180307>