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National Food Safety Standard-Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Food

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Report Highlights:

On August 12, China's Ministry of Health notified the WTO of Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods as G/SPS/N/CHN/312. The date for submission of final comments to China is October 11, 2010. The proposed date of adoption is to be determined. Contact information on where to send comments is inside the report. This report is an INFORMAL translation of this document.

Executive Summary:

On August 12, China's Ministry of Health notified the WTO of Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods as G/SPS/N/CHN/312. This standard prescribes the Maximum levels of Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Arsenic, Tin, Nickel, Chromium, Nitrate, Nitrite, Benzo(a)pyrene, N-nitrosamines, Polychlorinated biphenyls and 3-chloro-1, 2-propanediol in foods. The date for submission of final comments to China is October 11, 2010. The proposed date of adoption is to be determined.

Comments can be sent to China's SPS Enquiry Point at sps@aqsq.gov.cn

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General Information:

BEGIN TRANSLATION

National food safety standard**Maximum levels of contaminants in foods****GB2762-xxxx**

(Draft for comment)

Issued on xxxx

Implemented on xxxx

Issued by the Ministry of Health of China

Preface

This Standard replaces GB 2762-2005-- Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods, any indicators in this Standard covered by other national standards shall be subject to this Standard.

Compared with GB 2762-2005, major modification in this Standard is as follows:

—Sort and consolidate the provisions of maximum levels of contaminants in some domestic food products and corresponding modifications are made to some varieties of foods and their indicators of maximum levels of contaminants according CAC Standards;

—Add to the definition of "edible parts" of the food raw material and prescribe that the maximum levels in the raw food materials can be discounted according to edible parts;

—Eliminate the provision of maximum levels with regard to selenium, aluminium, fluorin and rare earths

——Add to the provision of maximum levels with regard to tin, 3-chloro-1, 2-propanediol and nitrate;

——Adjust the indicators of maximum levels of N-nitrosamine from N-Nitrosodimethylamine and N-dimethylnitrosamine to N-Nitrosodimethylamine.

The publication history of the previous standards replaced by this standard is as follows:

——GB 2762-2005

National Food Safety Standard

Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods

1. Scope

This Standard stipulates the indicators of maximum levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, tin, nickel, chromium, nitrate, nitrite, benzo (a) pyrene, N-nitrosamines, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and 3-chloro-1, 2-propanediol in foods.

2. Normative references

The clauses in the following referenced documents have been cited and become part of this standard. For documents with dates, their subsequent modifications (excluding error corrections) or revised versions are not applicable to the Standard. For those documents without dates, their latest versions are applicable to this Standard.

3. Terms and Definitions

3.1 Contaminant

Contaminant refers to any materials unintentionally added into the foods during the production (including planting crops, raising animals and applying veterinary medicines), processing, packaging, storage, transportation, sales, consumption of foods or any materials resulting from environmental pollution, the contaminant in this Standard refers to those other than pesticide, veterinary medicines and toxins in fungi.

3.2 Maximum levels , MLs

The maximum density of contaminants allowed in edible parts of the food raw materials and/or finished food products.

3.3 Edible parts

Edible parts refer to the usually edible and drinkable parts obtained from the food raw materials after the inedible parts of the food raw materials are dispelled by mechanical means when bones are removed from meat or fish, the shellfish is shelled, the grains are milled, the fruit is peeled and the nuts are shelled, but excluding the displying process that other method

is required (such as getting refined vegetable oil from unrefined vegetable oil).

The inedible parts dispelled from the edible parts of the foods are usually based on the processed finished products that meet specified standards, for example, when wheat is made into cereal or whole wheat noodle, the edible part is 100%, when made into flour, it shall be discounted according to flour yield.

4 Requirements of Indicators

4.1 Lead

See Table 1 for indicators of maximum levels of lead in foods.

Table 1. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Lead in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Grains and their products (excluding oatmeal, starch products and gluten)	0.2	GB 5009.12
Oatmeal, starch products and gluten	0.5	
Vegetables and their products		GB 5009.12
Vegetables (excluding bulb and stem, leaf vegetables and legume vegetables)	0.1	
Bulb and stem, leaf vegetables	0.3	
Legume vegetables	0.2	
Vegetables and their products	1.0	
Fruits and their products		
Fruits (excluding berries and grapes)	0.1	GB 5009.12
Berries and grapes	0.2	
Fruit products	1.0	
Edible fungi		GB 5009.12
Edible fungus	1.0	
Edible fungus products (excluding dried edible fungus)	1.0	
Dried edible fungus	2.0	
Legume and the products		

Dried beans, Soya flour	0.2	
Soy products (excluding soybean milk)	0.5	
Soybean milk	0.05	
Potato and its products		
Potatoes	0.2	
Potato products	0.5	
Algae	1.0 (measured in dried form)	
Nuts and seeds	0.2	
Meat and meat products		
Meats	0.2	
Meat products	0.5	
Edible animal offal and its products	0.5	
Aquatic products and their products		
Fish and crustaceans	0.5	
Shellfishes, cephalopods and other aquatic products	1.0	
Products derived from aquatic products (excluding dried jelly fish and dried seashells)	1.0	
Dried jelly fish and dried seashells	2.0	
Milk and milk products		GB 5009.12
Fluid milk (raw milk, pasteurized milk, sterilized milk, acidified milk and modified milk)	0.05	
cream		
Milk powder, non-desalting whey powder	0.5	
Other milk products	0.3	
Egg and egg products (excluding preserved egg)	0.2	
Preserved egg	2.0	
Fats and oils, and fat emulsions	0.1	
Condiments (excluding edible salt)	1.0	

Edible salt	2.0	
Sweeteners		
Sugar and starch sugar	0.5	
Pollen	0.5	
Honey	1.0	
Bakery product	0.5	
Beverages		
Packaged drinking water	0.01 mg/L	
Fruit and vegetable juice (excluding condensed fruit and vegetable juice(paste))	0.05 mg/L	
Condensed fruit and vegetable juice(paste)	0.5 mg/L	
Carbonated beverage and tea drinks	0.3 mg/L	
Milk beverages, yoghurt beverage	0.05 mg/L	
Solid beverages	1.0	
Other beverages	0.3 mg/L	
Alcoholic liquors	0.2	
Cocoa products, chocolate and chocolate products and candies	1.0	GB 5009.12
Frozen beverages	0.3	
Special nutritious foods		
Infant formulas	0.15 (measured in powder form)	
Cereal supplementary foods for infant and babies (excluding products with algae)	0.2	
Cereal supplementary foods with algae for infant and babies	0.3	
Canned supplementary foods for infant and babies (excluding the products made from aquatic products and animal liver)	0.25	
Canned supplementary foods made from aquatic products and animal liver for infant and babies	0.3	

Other types		
Extruded food	0.5	
Coffee	0.5	
Tea	5.0	
Fruit jelly	0.5	

4.2 Cadmium

See Table 2 for indicators of maximum levels of cadmium in foods.

Table 2. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Cadmium in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Grains and their products (excluding paddy and rice)	0.1	GB/T 5009.15
Paddy and rice	0.2	
Vegetables (excluding bulb and stem, leaf vegetables and legume vegetables)	0.05	
Leaf vegetables	0.2	
Legume and stem vegetables (excluding celery)	0.1	
Celery	0.2	
Fruit	0.05	
Edible fungi		
Edible fungus	0.2	
Dried edible fungus	1.0	
Legumes	0.2	GB/T 5009.15
Potatoes	0.1	
Nuts and seeds	0.5	
Meat and meat products (excluding animal liver and kidney)	0.1	
Animal liver	0.5	
Animal kidney	1.0	

Aquatic products and their products		
Fish and fish products (excluding canned fish)	0.1	
Canned fish	0.2	
Crustaceans	0.5	
Shellfishes, cephalopods	2.0	
Egg and egg products	0.05	
Condiments (excluding edible salt)	0.1	
Edible salt	0.5	
Beverages		
Mineral water	0.003 mg/L	
Bottled or barreled drinking water	0.005 mg/L	

4.3 Mercury

See Table 3 for indicators of maximum levels of mercury in foods.

Table 3. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Mercury in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)		Method of inspection
	Total mercury (Hg)	Methyl mercury	
Aquatic products (excluding predatory fish)	—	0.5 (by fresh weight)	GB/T 5009.17
Predatory fish (such as shark, tunny and others)	—	1.0 (by fresh weight)	
Cereals	0.02	—	
Vegetables	0.01	—	
Edible fungi			
Edible fungus	0.1	—	

Dried edible fungus	0.2	—	GB/T 5009.17
Potatoes	0.01	—	
Meat and meat products	0.05	—	
Milk and milk products Fluid milk (raw milk, pasteurized milk, sterilized milk, acidified milk and modified milk)	0.01	—	
Egg and egg products	0.05	—	
Condiments Edible salt	0.1	—	
Beverages Mineral water	0.001 mg/L	—	
Special nutritious foods Canned supplementary foods made from aquatic products and animal liver for infant and babies	0.02	—	

4.4 Arsenic

See Table 4 for indicators of maximum levels of Arsenic in foods.

Table 4. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Arsenic in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)		Method of inspection
	Total arsenic	Inorganic arsenic	
Grains and their products (excluding paddy and rice)	0.2	—	GB/T 5009.11
Paddy and rice	—	0.2	
Aquatic products			
Fish	—	0.1 (by fresh weight)	
Shellfishes, crustaceans ,cephalopods and	—	0.5 (by	

other aquatic products		fresh weight)	
Vegetables	0.5	—	
Edible fungi			
Edible fungus	0.5	—	
Dried edible fungus	1.0	—	
Meat and meat products	0.5	—	
Milk and milk products			
Fluid milk (raw milk, pasteurized milk, sterilized milk, acidified milk and modified milk)	0.1	—	
Milk powder	0.5	—	
Fats and oils, and fat emulsions	0.1	—	
Condiments	0.5	—	
Sweeteners			
Sugar	0.5	—	
Beverages			
Packaged drinking water	0.01	—	
Cocoa products, chocolate and chocolate products and candies	0.5	—	GB/T 5009.11
Special nutritious foods			
Cereal supplementary foods for infant and babies (excluding products with algae)	—	0.2	
Cereal supplementary foods with algae for infant and babies	—	0.3	
Canned supplementary foods for infant and babies (excluding the products made from aquatic products and animal liver)	—	0.1	
Canned supplementary foods made from aquatic products and animal liver for infant and babies	—	0.3	

4.5 Tin

See Table 5 for indicators of maximum levels of tin in foods.

Table 5. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Chromium in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Canned solid food (excluding canned infant formulas and supplementary foods)	250	GB/T 5009.16
Canned beverages	150	
Canned fruit jam	250	GB/T 5009.16
Canned infant formulas and supplementary foods	50	
Note: canned products refer to foods or beverages packaged by containers made of r tin plate sheet.		

4.6 Nickel

See Table 6 for indicators of maximum levels of nickel in foods.

Table 6. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Nickel in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Margarine	1.0	GB /T 5009.138

4.7 Chromium

See Table 7 for indicators of maximum levels of chromium in foods.

Table 7. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Chromium in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Cereal and its products	1.5	GB/T 5009.123
Vegetables	0.5	
Fruits	0.5	
Legumes	1.0	
Potatoes	0.5	
Meat and meat products	1.0	

Aquatic products	2.0	
Milk and milk products		
Fluid milk (raw milk, pasteurized milk, sterilized milk, acidified milk and modified milk)	0.3	
Milk powder	2.0	
Eggs	1.0	

4.8 Nitrite, nitrate

See Table 8 for indicators of maximum levels of Nitrite and nitrate in foods.

Table 8. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Nitrite and Nitrate in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)		Method of inspection
	Nitrite	Nitrate	
Vegetables and their products			GB 5009.33
Pickled vegetables	20	—	
Milk and milk products			GB 5009.33
Raw milk	0.4	—	
Beverages			GB/T 8538
Mineral water	0.1 mg/L	—	
Bottled or barreled purified water	0.002 mg/L	—	
Bottled or barreled drinking water	0.005 mg/L	—	
Special nutritious foods			GB 5009.33
Infant formulas	2 ^a	100	
Formula foods for babies	2 ^a	100 ^b	
Cereal supplementary foods for infant and babies	2 ^c	100 ^b	
Canned supplementary foods for infant and babies	4 ^c	200 ^b	
a. Just applicable for milk-based products. b. Products not suitable for adding to vegetables and fruits c. Products not suitable for adding to legumes.			

4.9 Benzo(a)pyrene

See Table 9 for indicators of maximum levels of Benzo(a)pyrene in foods.

Table 9. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Benzo(a)pyrene in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Paddy, wheat	5	GB/T 5009.27
Smoked or baked meats	5	
Smoked or baked aquatic products	5	
Fats and oils, and fat emulsions	10	

4.10 N-nitrosamine

See Table 10 for indicators of maximum levels of N-nitrosamine in foods.

Table 10. Indicators of Maximum Levels of N-nitrosamine in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
	N-nitrosodimethylamine	
Meat products	3	GB/T 5009.26
Aquatic products	4	

4.11 Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

See Table 11 for indicators of maximum levels of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in foods.

Table 11. Indicators of Maximum Levels of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection
Aquatic products and their products	0.5	GB/T 5009.190
Note : Polychlorobiphenyls is accounted by the sum of PCB28, PCB52, PCB101, PCB118, PCB138, and PCB153and PCB180.		

4.12 3-chloro-1, 2-propanediol

See Table 12 for indicators of maximum levels of 3-chloro-1, 2-propanediol in foods.

Table 12. Indicators of Maximum Levels of 3-chloro-1, 2-propanediol in Foods

Food type/Name	Maximum level (MLs) / (mg/kg)	Method of inspection

Liquid condiments ^a	0.4	GB/T 5009.191
^a Just limited to the products added with hydrolyzed vegetable protein.		

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