

European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
12th Session

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Agenda Item 10

Proposed draft maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts
and associated sampling plan

(CL 2018/6-CF and CX/CF 18/12/10)

European Union Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work done by India to prepare the document CX/CF 18/12/10 related to the proposed draft maximum level for aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plans.

The EU wishes to make the following comments as regards the proposed maximum level (ML) of 10 µg/kg for aflatoxin total in ready-to-eat peanuts.

As this proposed ML of 10 µg/kg for aflatoxin total in ready-to-eat peanuts is higher than the current EU ML of 4 µg/kg for aflatoxin total in ready-to-eat peanuts, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has been requested to assess the impact on public health of a possible increase of the current EU ML of 4 µg/kg for aflatoxin total in peanuts and processed products thereof, intended for direct human consumption or use as an ingredient in foodstuffs to 10 µg/kg of aflatoxin total taking into account vulnerable groups of the population and the EU consumption patterns.

Following this request, EFSA adopted on 23 January 2018 a statement on the effect on public health of a possible increase of the ML for aflatoxin total from 4 to 10 µg/kg in peanuts and processed products thereof, intended for direct human consumption or use as an ingredient in foodstuffs¹. EFSA concluded that for consumers of peanuts and peanut butter, based on estimates of current exposure to aflatoxins, the cancer risk is higher than the excess lifetime cancer risk of 10⁻⁵. A ML for aflatoxin total of 10 µg/kg in ready-to-eat peanuts would further increase the cancer risk by a factor of 1.6 to 1.8 based on a simulation of the possible dietary exposure to aflatoxins.

Taking into account this significant increase of the cancer risk, then EU cannot agree on the proposed ML of 10 µg/kg for aflatoxin total in ready-to-eat peanuts. The EU further notes that no associated sampling plan is proposed.

¹ Statement available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5175/epdf>