

European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
14th Session

TBD

Codex Circular Letter CL 2020/19/OCS-CF:

Request for comments on the proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium
in chocolates and cocoa derived products

(CX/CF 20/14/6)

European Union Competence

European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) welcomes the work on the development of maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products by the electronic Working Group chaired by Ecuador and co-chaired by Brazil and Ghana.

The European Union (EU) would like to express its reservation against the proposed draft maximum level (ML) of 0.6-0.7 mg/kg for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring $\geq 30\%$ to $< 50\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. The EU cannot support the proposed ML, as the EU argues for a stricter ML 0.30 mg/kg to ensure sufficient protection of all consumers, in particular children.

The European Union (EU) would like to express its reservation against the proposed draft maximum level ML of 2.0 to 3.0 mg/kg for cocoa powder containing 100% total cocoa solids ready for consumption. The EU cannot support the proposed ML, as the EU argues for a stricter ML 0.60 mg/kg to ensure sufficient protection of all consumers, in particular children.

The EU believes that applying the concept of proportionality is not justified because milk chocolate is consumed by children, while dark chocolate usually is not. For cocoa powder the same argument is applicable, as cocoa powder is used as an ingredient in drinks and foods for children.

In view of the difficult progress of the discussions on MLs for chocolate containing less than 50% cocoa solids, the EU would not oppose to a postponement of the discussions on these MLs, until the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa has been finalised and implemented. For cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on dry matter basis), the EU proposes not to set a Codex ML, in view of the lower significance of this commodity for international trade.