

Presence of Mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH) in infant formula, follow-on formula, foods for special medical purposes intended for infant and young children and young child formula

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that, in the absence of information on the presence or absence of 3-7 ring polycyclic aromatic compounds (3-7 PAC), the detection of mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH) in food should be considered of potential concern for human health¹. Therefore, MOAH should not be present in infant formula and follow-on formula. The presence of MOAH has been confirmed in infant formula and follow-on formula.

Good practices exist to prevent the presence of MOAH in infant formula, follow-on formula, foods for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formula. There is evidence that, through a careful selection of batches of vegetable oils to be used for the production of infant formula and follow-on formula, the presence of MOAH in these foods can be significantly reduced or even prevented. Contaminant levels shall be kept as low as can reasonably be achieved by following good practices at all the stages (Article 2(2) of Regulation (EEC) 315/93). Therefore, food business operators along the production chain shall apply these good practices to prevent presence of MOAH in these foods.

The Committee concluded that batches of infant formula, follow-on formula, foods for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formula containing an analysed content (*i.e. no measurement uncertainty to be taken into account*) of 1 mg/kg MOAH per MOAH C-fraction² (*sample preparation and analysis in accordance with the [JRC guidance](#) and the [conclusions of the workshop of 5 December 2019](#)*) provide clear evidence of presence of MOAH in these products and are therefore of concern for public health. Measures as regards such batches should be taken to ensure a high level of human health protection and this in accordance with [Article 14 of Regulation \(EC\) 178/2002](#).

The level 1 mg/kg MOAH per MOAH C-fraction is currently the lowest level that can be reliably quantified in laboratories across the EU and is temporary awaiting the finalisation of the specific Standard Operating Procedure for the analysis of MOAH in infant formula, follow-on formula, foods for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formula which shall enable a better estimation of the achievable LOQ in these matrices.

¹ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Arcella D, Baert K, Binaglia M, 2019. Rapid risk assessment on the possible risk for public health due to the contamination of infant formula and follow-on formula by mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH). EFSA Supporting Publication 2019: EN-1741. 18pp. doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2019.EN-1741

² It concerns the following MOAH C-fractions: MOAH \geq n-C₁₀ to \leq n-C₁₆, MOAH $>$ n-C₁₆ to \leq n-C₂₅, MOAH $>$ n-C₂₅ to \leq n-C₃₅, MOAH $>$ n-C₃₅ to \leq n-C₅₀.