China's Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Food

Table 1. Maximum Levels of Lead in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as Pb) mg/kg
1	*Grains and their products*[1] [excluding oatmeal, gluten, canned rice pudding, rice products with stuffing (material)]	0.2
2	Oatmeal, gluten, canned rice pudding, rice products with stuffing (material)	0.5
3	*Vegetables and their products* Fresh vegetables (excluding brassica vegetables, leaf vegetables, leguminous vegetables, potatoes)	0.1
4	Brassica vegetables, leaf vegetables	0.3
5	Leguminous vegetables, potatoes	0.2
6	Vegetable products	1.0
7	*Fruits and their products* Fresh fruits (excluding berries and other Arabica fruit)	0.1
8	Berries and other Arabica fruit	0.2
9	Fruit products	1.0
10	Edible fungi	1.0
11	*Legumes and their products* Legumes	0.2
12	Leguminous products (except soy sauce)	0.5
13	Soy milk	0.05

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14	*Algae and their products* (excluding spirulina and its products)	1.0 (calculated as dry weight)
15	*Nuts and seeds* (excluding coffee beans)	0.2
16	Coffee beans	0.5
17	*Meat and meat products* Meat (excluding livestock and poultry offal)	0.2
18	Livestock and poultry offal	0.5
19	Meat products	0.5
20	*Aquatic animals and their products* Fresh and frozen aquatic animals (excluding fish, crustaceans, bivalves)	1.0 (eviscerated)
21	Fish, crustaceans	0.5
22	Bivalves	1.5
23	Aquatic products (excluding jellyfish products)	1.0
24	Jellyfish products	2.0
25	*Milk and milk products* Raw milk, pasteurised milk, sterilised milk, fermented milk, modified milk	0.05
26	Milk powder, non-desalted whey powder	0.5
27	Other milk products	0.3
28	*Egg and egg products* (excluding preserved egg and preserved egg sausage)	0.2
29	Preserved egg, preserved egg sausage	0.5
30	*Fats and their products*	0.1

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31	*Seasonings* (excluding table salt and spices)	1.0
32	Table salt	2.0
33	Spices	3.0
34	Sugars and sweeteners	0.5
35	*Starch and starch products* Edible starch	0.2
36	Starch products	0.5
37	Baked goods	0.5
38	*Beverages* Packaged drinking water	0.01 mg/L
39	Fruit and vegetable juice (excluding concentrated fruit and vegetable juice (pulp))	0.05 mg/L
40	Concentrated fruit and vegetable juice (pulp)	0.5 mg/L
41	Protein drinks (excluding drinks containing milk)	0.3 mg/L
42	Drinks containing milk	0.05 mg/L
43	Carbonated beverages and tea drinks	0.3 mg/L
44	Powdered beverages	1.0
45	Other beverages	0.3 mg/L
46	*Liquor* (excluding distilled spirits, millet wine)	0.2

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47	Distilled spirits, millet wine	0.5
48	*Cocoa products*, chocolate and chocolate products, sweets	0.5
49	*Frozen beverages*	0.3
50	*Foods for special dietary uses* Formula for infants and young children (excluding liquid products)	0.15 (measured in powder form)
51	Liquid products	0.02 (measured in readyto-eat state)
52	Supplementary foods for infants and young children Cereal supplementary foods for infants and young children (excluding products with added fish, liver and vegetables)	0.2
53	Products with added fish, liver and vegetables	0.3
54	Canned supplementary foods for infants and young children (excluding products with aquatic product and livestock and poultry liver as a raw ingredient)	0.25
55	Products with aquatic product and livestock and poultry liver liver as a raw ingredient	0.3
56	*Other categories* Fruit jelly	0.5
57	Puffed food	0.5
58	Tea	5.0
59	Dried chrysanthemum	5.0
60	Kuding tea	2.0
61	Bee products Honey	1.0
62	Pollen	0.5

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB 5009.12

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Table 2. Maximum Levels of Cadmium in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as Cd) mg/kg
1	*Grains and their products* Grains (excluding paddy rice[1])	0.1
2	Processed milled grain products (excluding brown rice, white rice)	0.1
3	Paddy rice*, brown rice, white rice	0.2
4	*Vegetables and their products* Fresh vegetables (excluding leaf vegetables, leguminous vegetables, root and tuber vegetables, stem vegetables)	0.05
5	Leaf vegetables	0.2
6	Leguminous vegetables, root and tuber vegetables, stem vegetables (excluding celery)	0.1
7	Celery	0.2
8	*Fruits and their products* Fresh fruits	0.05
9	*Edible fungi and their products* Fresh edible fungi (except mushrooms, Agaricus)	0.2
10	Mushrooms	0.5
11	Edible fungi products (excluding Agaricus products)	0.5
12	*Legumes and their products* Legumes	0.2

*) National Standard of the People's Republic of China GB 2762-2012

13	*Nuts and seeds* Peanuts	0.5
14	*Meat and meat products* Meat (excluding livestock and poultry offal)	0.1
15	Livestock and poultry liver	0.5
16	Livestock and poultry kidney	1.0
17	Meat products (excluding liver products, kidney products)	0.1
18	Liver products	0.5
19	Kidney products	1.0
20	*Aquatic animals and their products* Fresh and frozen aquatic animals Fish	0.1
21	Crustaceans	0.5
22	Bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, echinoderms	2.0 (eviscerated)
23	Aquatic products Canned fish (excluding canned anchovies, swordfish)	0.2
24	Canned anchovies, swordfish	0.3
25	Other fish products (except anchovy and swordfish products)	0.1
26	Anchovy and swordfish products	0.3
27	*Egg and egg products*	0.05
28	*Seasonings* Table salt	0.5

*) National Standard of the People's Republic of China GB 2762-2012

29	Fish seasoning	0.1
30	*Beverages* Packaged drinking water (excluding mineral water)	0.005 mg/L
31	Mineral water	0.003 mg/L

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.15.

Table 3. Maximum Levels of Mercury in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as Hg) mg/kg	
		Total mercury	Methyl mercury[2]
1	*Aquatic animals and their products* (excluding predatory fish and their products)	-	0.5
2	Predatory fish and their products	-	1.0
3	*Grains and their products* Paddy rice[1], brown rice, white rice, corn, corn flour (grits, flakes) wheat, wheat flour	0.02	-
4	*Vegetables and their products* Fresh vegetables	0.01	-
5	*Edible fungi and their products*	0.1	-
6	*Meat and meat products* Meat	0.05	-
7	*Milk and milk products* Raw milk, pasteurised milk, sterilised milk, modified milk, fermented milk	0.01	-
8	*Egg and egg products* Fresh egg	0.05	-

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9	*Seasonings* Table salt	0. 1	-
10	*Beverages* Minerar water	0.001 mg/L	-
11	*Foods for special dietary purposes* Canned supplementary foods for infants and young children	0.02	-

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.17.

Table 4. Maximum Levels of Arsenic in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as As) mg/kg	
		Total Arsenic	Inorganic Arsenic
1	*Grains and their products* Grains (excluding paddy rice[1])	0.5	-
2	Processed milled grain products (excluding brown rice, white rice)	0.5	-
3	Paddy rice*, brown rice, white rice	-	0.2
4	*Aquatic animals and their products* (excluding fish and their products)	-	0.5
5	Fish and their products	-	0.1
6	*Vegetables and their products* Fresh vegetables	0.5	-
7	*Edible fungi and their products*	0.5	-
8	*Meat and meat products*	0.5	-

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9	*Milk and milk products* Raw milk, pasteurised milk, sterilised milk, modified milk, fermented milk	0.1	-
10	Milk powder	0.5	-
11	*Fats and their products*	0.1	-
12	*Seasonings* (excluding aquatic seasonings, algae seasonings and spices)	0.5	-
13	Aquatic seasonings (excluding fish seasonings)	-	0.5
14	Fish seasonings	-	0.1
15	*Sugars and sweeteners*	0.5	-
16	*Beverages* Packaged drinking water	0.01 mg/L	-
17	*Cocoa products, chocolate and chocolate products, sweets* Cocoa products, chocolate and chocolate products	0.5	-
18	*Foods for special dietary uses* Supplementary food for infants and young children (excluding products with added algae)	-	0.2
19	Products with added algae	-	0.3
20	Canned supplementary foods for infants and young children (excluding products with aquatic product and livestock and poultry liver as a raw ingredient)	-	0.1
21	Products with aquatic product and livestock and poultry liver as a raw ingredient	-	0.3

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.11.

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Table 5. Maximum Levels of Tin in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as Sn) mg/kg
1	*Food* (excluding beverages, infant formula and supplementary food for infants)[3]	250
2	Beverages	150
3	Formula for infants and young children, supplementary food for infants and young children	50

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.16

Table 6. Maximum Levels of Nickel in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as Ni) mg/kg
1	*Fats and their products* Hydrogenated vegetable oils and hydrogenated vegetable oil-based products	1.0

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.138

*) National Standard of the People's Republic of China GB 2762-2012

Table 7. Maximum Levels of Chromium in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level (calculated as Cr) mg/kg
1	*Grains and their products* Grains[1]	1.0
2	Processed milled grain product	1.0
3	*Vegetables and their products* Fresh vegetables	0.5
4	*Legumes and their products* Legumes	1.0
5	*Meat and meat products*	1.0
6	*Aquatic animals and their products*	2.0
7	*Milk and milk products* Raw milk, pasteurised milk, sterilised milk, modified milk, fermented milk	0.3
8	Milk powder	2.0

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.123

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Table 8. Maximum Levels of Nitrite and Nitrate in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level, mg/kg	
		Nitrite (calculated as NaNO2)	Nitrate (calculated as NaNO3)
1	*Vegetables and their products* Pickled vegetables	20	-
2	*Milk and milk products* Raw milk	0.4	-
3	Milk powder	2.0	-
4	*Beverages* Packaged drinking water (excluding mineral water)	0.005 mg/L (calculated as NO_2^-)	-
5	Mineral water	0.1 mg/L (calculated as NO_2^-)	45 mg/l (as NO_3^-)
6	*Foods for special dietary uses* Formula for infants and small children Formula for infants	2.0[4] (calculated as powdered product)	100 (calculated as powdered product)
7	Formula for older infants and young children	2.0[4] (calculated as powdered product)	100[5] (calculated as powdered product)
8	Infant formula for special medical purposes	2.0 (calculated as powdered product)	100 (calculated as powdered product)
9	Supplementary foods for infants and young children Cereal supplementary foods for infants and young children	2.0[6]	100[5]
10	Canned supplementary foods for infants and young children	4.0[6]	200[5]

Test method: beverages measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 8538; other foods measured according to the method stipulated in GB 5009.33

*) National Standard of the People's Republic of China GB 2762-2012

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

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level, mg/kg
1	Grains and their products Paddy rice[1], brown rice, white rice, wheat, wheat flakes, corn, corn flour (grits, flakes)	5.0
2	*Meat and meat products* Barbecued, baked or grilled meat	5.0
3	*Aquatic animals and their products* Barbecued or grilled aquatic products	5.0
4	*Fats and their products*	10

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.16

Table 10. Maximum Levels of N-nitrosamines in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level, mg/kg
1	*Meat and meat products* Meat products (excluding canned meat products)	3.0
2	*Aquatic animals and their products* Aquatic products (excluding canned aquatic products)	4.0

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.138

Table 11. Maximum Levels of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Foods

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level[7], mg/kg
1	*Aquatic animals and their products*	0.5

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.190

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

#	Food category (name)	Maximum level, mg/kg
1	*Seasonings*[8] Liquid seasonings	0.4
2	Solid seasonings	1.0

Test method: measured according to the method stipulated in GB/T 5009.191

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NOTES

1 Paddy rice is calculated as brown rice.
2 Total mercury can be selected to be measured for aquatic animals and their products and, when the total mercury level does not exceed the maximum level for methyl mercury, there is no need to measure methyl mercury; otherwise, methyl mercury must be measured.
3 Limited to food packaged in tin plate containers.
4 Only applies to milk-based products.
5 Not suitable for products with added vegetables and fruit.
6 Not suitable for products with added legumes.
7 Polychlorinated biphenyls are calculated as the sum of PCB28, PCB52, PCB101, PCB118, PCB138, PCB153 and PCB180.
8 Only limited to products with added hydrolysed vegetable protein.

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