

L.N. 140 of 2025

Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination)
(Amendment) Regulation 2025

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Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2025

(Made by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology under section 55 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 5 September 2025.

2. Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations amended

The Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132 sub. leg. V) are amended as set out in sections 3, 4 and 5.

3. Regulation 7 repealed (continued application of old standard until 31 October 2020)

Regulation 7—

Repeal the regulation.

4. Regulation 8 added

Before the Schedule—

Add

“8. Grace period for importations, consignments, etc. from 5 September 2025 to 5 March 2027

During the period between 5 September 2025 and 5 March 2027 (both dates inclusive), if—

- (a) a person imports, consigns, delivers, manufactures or sells any specified food or compounded food for human consumption; and

- (b) had the person done so immediately before 5 September 2025, the person would not have contravened regulation 3 as in force immediately before that date,

the person does not contravene regulation 3.”.

5. Schedule amended (maximum level of metal)

- (1) The Schedule, Part 2, item 6, before the following—

“Bulb vegetables 0.05”

Add

“Vegetables (other than 0.1”.
those vegetables
specified in this
item)

- (2) The Schedule, Part 2, item 6, after the following—

“Stalk and stem 0.1”
vegetables

Add

“Edible fungi (other 0.2
than those edible
fungi specified in
this item)

Section 5

Shiitake mushrooms (<i>Lentinula edodes</i>)	0.5
Morels (<i>Morchella</i> importuna), shingled hedgehogs (<i>Sarcodon</i> imbricatus), green- cracking russulas (<i>Russula virescens</i>), chanterelles (<i>Cantharellus</i> spp.) and honey mushrooms (<i>Armillaria mellea</i>)	0.6
Bolete mushrooms (<i>Boletus bainiugan</i> , <i>Lanmaoa asiatica</i> , <i>Sutorius</i> <i>brunneissimus</i> , <i>Rugiboletus</i> <i>extremiorientalis</i>), matsutake mushrooms (<i>Tricholoma</i> matsutake), termite mushrooms (<i>Termitomyces</i> spp.) and tawny milkcaps (<i>Lactarius volemus</i>)	1
Truffles (<i>Tuber</i> spp.) and himematsutake mushrooms (<i>Agaricus blazei</i>)	2

Section 5

- Wood ears (Auricularia
cornea, Auricularia
heimuer) and white
jelly mushrooms
(Tremella
fuciformis)0.5Note 12”.
- (3) The Schedule, Part 2, item 6—
Repeal
“Vegetables unless0.1”
otherwise specified
- (4) The Schedule, Part 2, item 6, after the following—
“Polished rice0.2”
Add
“Cocoa powder (100%2
total cocoa solids
on a dry matter
basis) ready for
consumption
Chocolates containing0.9
or declaring $\geq 70\%$
total cocoa solids
on a dry matter
basis
Chocolates containing0.8
or declaring $\geq 50\%$
to $< 70\%$ total
cocoa solids on a
dry matter basis

Section 5

Chocolates containing 0.7
or declaring $\geq 30\%$
to $< 50\%$ total
cocoa solids on a
dry matter basis

Chocolates containing 0.3”.
or declaring $< 30\%$
total cocoa solids
on a dry matter
basis

(5) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9—

Repeal

“0.03 Note 8”

Substitute

“0.03 Note 13”.

(6) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9—

Repeal

“Fruit juices exclusively 0.05 Note 8”
from berries and
other small fruits

Substitute

“Fruit juices exclusively 0.05 Note 8
from berries and
other small fruits,
other than grape
juice

Grape juice 0.04 Note 13”.

(7) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to mango
chutney—

Section 5

Repeal

“1”

Substitute

“0.4”.

(8) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9—

Repeal

“Edible fungi 1”

Substitute

“Edible fungi (other 0.5
than those edible
fungi specified in
this item)

Fresh farmed 0.3
mushrooms
(common
mushrooms
(Agaricus bisporus),
shiitake mushrooms
(Lentinula edodes)
and oyster
mushrooms
(Pleurotus
ostreatus))

Honey mushrooms 0.3
(Armillaria mellea)

Section 5

Bolete mushrooms (<i>Boletus bainiugan</i> , <i>Lanmaoa asiatica</i> , <i>Sutorius</i> <i>brunneissimus</i> , <i>Rugiboletus</i> <i>extremiorientalis</i>), matsutake mushrooms (<i>Tricholoma</i> <i>matsutake</i>), truffles (<i>Tuber</i> spp.), green- cracking russulas (<i>Russula virescens</i>), termite mushrooms (<i>Termitomyces</i> spp.), chanterelles (<i>Cantharellus</i> spp.) and tawny milkcaps (<i>Lactarius volemus</i>)	1	
Wood ears (<i>Auricularia</i> <i>cornea</i> , <i>Auricularia</i> <i>heimuer</i>) and white jelly mushrooms (<i>Tremella</i> <i>fuciformis</i>)	1	Note 12”.

- (9) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, before the following—
“Canned chestnuts and 0.05”
canned chestnuts
puree

Add

“Cereal-based food 0.02 Note 14”.
intended to be
consumed
principally by
persons under the
age of 36 months

- (10) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to edible offal
of cattle—

Repeal

“0.5”

Substitute

“0.2”.

- (11) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to edible offal
of pig—

Repeal

“0.5”

Substitute

“0.15”.

- (12) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to edible offal
of poultry—

Repeal

“0.5”

Substitute

“0.1”.

- (13) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to lime
preserved eggs—

Repeal

“0.5”

Substitute

“0.2”.

- (14) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, after the following—

“Infant formula and 0.01 Note 10”
follow-up formula

Add

“Ready-to-eat 0.02”.
complementary
food (other than
cereal-based food)
intended to be
consumed
principally by
persons under the
age of 36 months

- (15) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to edible fats and oils—

Repeal

“0.1”

Substitute

“0.08”.

- (16) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9, entry relating to fat spreads and blended spreads—

Repeal

“0.1”

Substitute

“0.08”.

- (17) The Schedule, Part 2, item 9—

Repeal

Section 5

“Salt, food grade	2”	
Substitute		
“Salt, food grade, other than salt from marshes, food grade	1	
Salt from marshes, food grade	2	
Sugar-based candies and honey	0.1	
Soft brown sugar, raw sugar and non-centrifugal sugar	0.5	
White sugar, refined sugar, corn syrups and maple syrups	0.5”.	
(18) The Schedule, Part 2, item 11—		
Repeal		
“Fish	0.5	Note 2”
Substitute		
“Fish (other than those fish specified in this item), fish balls and fish cakes	0.5	Note 2
Tuna	1.2	Note 2
Alfonsino	1.5	Note 2
Marlin	1.7	Note 2
Shark	1.6	Note 2
Orange roughy	0.8	Note 2
Pink cusk-eel	1	Note 2”.

- (19) The Schedule, English text, Part 2, item 16—

Repeal

“Canned foods”

Substitute

“Canned food”.

- (20) The Schedule, Part 2, note 2, after “digestive tract”—

Add

“(if any)”.

- (21) The Schedule, Part 2, after note 11—

Add

“Note 12: Applies to products in dried form.

Note 13: Applies to—

- (a) fruit juices (not concentrated) or products reconstituted to the original juice concentration that are ready to drink;
- (b) nectars that are ready to drink; and
- (c) fruit juices intended to be consumed principally by persons under the age of 36 months.

Note 14: Applies to products that are not reconstituted or otherwise prepared for consumption.”.

Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2025

L.N. 140 of 2025

B4103

TSE Chin-wan
Secretary for Environment and
Ecology

24 June 2025

Explanatory Note

The Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132 sub. leg. V) (*principal Regulations*) set the limits for metallic contamination in food. In particular, under regulation 3 of the principal Regulations, a person must not import, consign, deliver, manufacture or sell for human consumption certain food items containing metals exceeding the maximum permitted level for those items. The maximum levels are set out in, or determined according to, the principal Regulations.

2. This Regulation amends the principal Regulations to—
 - (a) update or establish the maximum levels of cadmium, lead and methyl-mercury allowed to be contained in certain food items (*new maximum levels*); and
 - (b) provide for a 18-month grace period to comply with the new maximum levels.