

Action levels for dioxins and furans and dioxin-like PCBs in food
(Recommendation 2006/88/EC)

Food	Action level for dioxins and furans (WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ) ⁽¹⁾	Action level for dioxin-like PCBs (WHO-PCB-TEQ) ⁽¹⁾
Meat and meat products ⁽²⁾		
- of ruminants (bovine animals, sheep)	1,5 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾	1,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾
- of poultry and farmed game	1,5 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾	1,5 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾
- of pigs	0,6 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾	0,5 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾
Liver and derived products of terrestrial animals	4,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾	4,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾
Muscle meat of fish and fishery products and products thereof, with the exception of eel ^(4, 5, 6)	3,0 pg/g fresh weight	3,0 pg/g fresh weight
Muscle meat of eel (<i>Aguilla anguilla</i>) and products thereof ^(4, 5, 6)	3,0 pg/g fresh weight	6,0 pg/g fresh weight
Milk ⁽⁷⁾ and milk products, including butter fat	2,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾	2,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾
Hen eggs and egg products ⁽⁹⁾	2,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾	2,0 pg/g fat ⁽³⁾
Oils and fats:		
- Animal fat		
- from ruminants	1,5 pg/g fat	1,0 pg/g fat
- from poultry and farmed game	1,5 pg/g fat	1,5 pg/g fat
- from pigs	0,6 pg/g fat	0,5 pg/g fat
- mixed animal fats	1,5 pg/g fat	0,75 pg/g fat
- Vegetable oil and fats	0,5 pg/g fat	0,5 pg/g fat
- Marine oil (fish body oil, fish liver oil and oils from other marine organisms intended for human consumption)	1,5 pg/g fat	6,0 pg/g fat
Fruits, vegetables and cereals	0,4 ng/kg product	0,2 ng/kg product

The **target levels** for the sums of dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs (WHO-TEQ) will be set by the end of the year 2008.

- ⁽¹⁾ Upperbound concentrations: upperbound concentrations are calculated assuming that all the values of the different congeners less than the limit of quantification are equal to the limit of quantification.
- ⁽²⁾ Meat of bovine animals, sheep, pig, poultry and farmed game as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin (OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, as corrected by OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 22), but not including edible offal as defined in that Annex.
- ⁽³⁾ The action levels are not applicable for food products containing < 1 % fat.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Muscle meat of fish and fishery products as defined in categories (a), (b), (c), (e) and (f) of list in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 (OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22. Regulation as amended by the 2003 Act of Accession). The action level applies to crustaceans excluding the brown meat of crab and excluding head and thorax meat of lobster and similar large crustaceans (Nephropidae and Palinuridae) and to cephalopods without viscera.
- ⁽⁵⁾ Where fish are intended to be eaten whole, the action level shall apply for the whole fish.
- ⁽⁶⁾ When the action level is exceeded, it will be in some cases not necessary to perform an investigation as regards the source of contamination as the background level in some areas for some fish species is close to or exceeding the action level. However it is appropriate in these cases where the action level is exceeded to record all information such as sampling period, geographic origin and fish species in view of future measures as regards the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like compounds in fish and fishery products.
- ⁽⁷⁾ Milk (raw milk, milk for manufacture of milk-based products and heat treated milk) as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
- ⁽⁸⁾ Hen eggs and egg products as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.