

Joint Statement regarding the Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons in food adopted by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Novel Food and Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain on 13 May 2026.

On 21 April 2022, the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Novel Food and Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain, adopted a *“Joint Statement regarding the presence of Mineral Oil Aromatic Hydrocarbons (MOAH) in food, including food for infants and young children”*¹. In that Joint Statement, the representatives of EU Member States agreed on uniform limits of quantification. Above those limits, MOAH in food was considered unsafe in accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EC) 2002/178². Subsequently, the scope of that Joint Statement was clarified on 19 October 2022³.

On 13 May 2026, a Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons in food received a favourable vote at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Novel Food and Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain. While this Regulation will apply from 1st January 2027, for most maximum levels, the application will be deferred to 1 January 2028 or 1 January 2030 for some maximum levels.

Considering that certain limits of quantification included in the Joint Statement from 21 April 2022 are lower than the maximum levels set in the Commission Regulation, the representatives of EU Member States agree that, as from 13 May 2026, the maximum levels set in the Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons in food, should be used as a basis for enforcement on the basis of Article 14 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

From the dates of application of the maximum levels of Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons in food, the *“Joint Statement regarding the presence of MOAH in food, including food for infants and young children”* of 21 April 2022, as clarified on 19 October 2022, shall be without effect for the concerned foods. For foods, for which no maximum level is established, the statement from 2022 will remain applicable.

¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fc82efb9-e180-45ff-8202-3df60ec00fb2_en?filename=cs_contaminants_catalogue_moah_ntfs_js_0.pdf

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/178/oj>

³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e550e01d-98f4-4cbc-9fa0-6fc8faf544d2_en?filename=cs_contaminants_catalogue_moah_20220421_ntfs_js-clarif.pdf