



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E - Safety of the food chain  
E2 – Food hygiene, Alert system and Training



Brussels, 15 March, 2011



**FOOD**  
**INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**NEWS: 11-653**

**ORIGINAL NOTIFICATION**

**SUBJECT: RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN JAPAN**

**PAGES: COVER PAGE (1) + 7**

**FAXNUMBER: +32-2-296 76 74**

**EMAIL: [sanco-rasff@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sanco-rasff@ec.europa.eu)**

**HTTP://CIRCA.EUROPA.EU/**

**DG SANCO recommends to analyse food and feed from Japan for radioactivity. The Commission RASFF contact point will send a copy of this RASFF news to INFOSAN and will ask INFOSAN to compile any potential findings of radioactive contamination of food or feed following the incidents in Japan. For information, recent statistical data regarding food imports from Japan are uploaded as an annex.**

The contact point from Commission Services has communicated to the Commission the following information:

## **Japan - radioactive contamination**

Following the latest developments of the situation in Japan, DG SANCO recommends that analysis are carried out from now on the level of radioactivity in feed and food from plant or animal origin (mainly fishery products) imported from today from Japan.

According to the movement of the radioactivity in the next hours/days, it might be necessary to analyse products from other third countries, but further information will follow on this point.

It is important that any abnormal level of radioactivity in feed and food is reported immediately to the Commission.

As regards the acceptability for placing on the market of feed and food with an increased level of radioactivity, the pre-established maximum levels for food in Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87, for feed in Regulation (Euratom) No 770/90 and for minor foodstuffs Regulation (Euratom) No 944/89 can be used as a reference.

All information on the nuclear incident will be transmitted via the European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange system (ECURIE) which is the European early notification system in the event of a radiological or nuclear emergency.

## I. MAXIMUM PERMITTED LEVELS FOR FOODSTUFFS (Bq/kg)

(Council Regulation (EURATOM) No 3954/87 of 22 December 1987 laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and of feedingstuffs following nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency)

	Foodstuffs <sup>1</sup>			
	Infant food <sup>2</sup>	Dairy produce <sup>3</sup>	Other foodstuffs except minor foodstuffs <sup>4</sup>	Liquid foodstuffs <sup>5</sup>
Isotopes of strontium, notably Sr-90	75	125	750	125
Isotopes of iodine, notably I-131	150	500	2 000	500
Alpha-emitting isotopes of plutonium and transplutonium elements, notably Pu-239, Am-241	1	20	80	20
All other nuclides of half-life greater than 10 days, notably Cs-134, Cs-137 <sup>6</sup>	400	1 000	1 250	1 000

## II. LIST OF MINOR FOODSTUFFS

<sup>1</sup> The level applicable to concentrated or dried products is calculated on the basis of the reconstituted product as ready for consumption. Member States may make recommendations concerning the diluting conditions in order to ensure that the maximum permitted levels laid down in this Regulation are observed.

<sup>2</sup> ☒ Infant ☒ food ☒ is ☒ defined as those foodstuffs intended for the feeding of infants during the first four to six months of life, which meet, in themselves, the nutritional requirements of this category of person and are put up for retail sale in packages which are clearly identified and labelled “food preparation for infants”.

<sup>3</sup> Dairy produce is defined as those products falling within the following CN codes including, where appropriate, any adjustments which might be made to them later: 0401, 0402 (except 0402 29 11).

<sup>4</sup> Minor foodstuffs and the corresponding levels to be applied to them ☒ are set out in Annex II ☒.

<sup>5</sup> Liquid foodstuffs as defined in the heading 2009 and in chapter 22 of the combined nomenclature. Values are calculated taking into account consumption of tap-water and the same values should be applied to drinking water supplies at the discretion of competent authorities in Member States.

<sup>6</sup> Carbon 14, tritium and potassium 40 are not included in this group.

For the minor foodstuffs listed hereafter, the maximum permitted levels to be applied are 10 times those applicable to “other foodstuffs except minor foodstuffs” set out in heading I

CN code	Description
0703 20 00	Garlic (fresh or chilled)
0709 59 50	Truffles (fresh or chilled)
0709 90 40	Capers (fresh or chilled)
0711 90 70	Capers (provisionally preserved, but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption)
ex 0712 39 00	Truffles (dried, whole, cut, sliced, broken or in powder, but not further prepared)
0714	Manioc, arrowroot, salep, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes and similar roots and tubers with high starch or inulin content, fresh or dried, whether or not sliced or in the form of pellets; sago pith
0814 00 00	Peel of citrus fruit or melons (including watermelons), fresh, frozen, dried or provisionally preserved in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions
0903 00 00	Maté
0904	Pepper of the genus <i>Piper</i> ; dried or crushed or ground fruits of the genus <i>Capsicum</i> or of the genus <i>Pimenta</i>
0905 00 00	Vanilla
0906	Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers
0907 00 00	Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems)
0908	Nutmeg, mace and cardamons
0909	Seeds of anise, badian, fennel, coriander, cumin or caraway; juniper berries
0910	Ginger, saffron, turmeric (curcuma), thyme, bay leaves, curry and other spices
1106 20	Flour, meal and powder of sago or of roots or tubers of heading No 0714
1108 14 00	Manioc (cassava) starch
1210	Hop cones, fresh or dried, whether or not ground, powdered or in the form of pellets; lupulin
1211	Plants and parts of plants (including seeds and fruits), of a kind used primarily in perfumery, in pharmacy or for insecticidal, fungicidal or

	similar purposes, fresh or dried, whether or not cut, crushed or powdered
1301	Lac; natural gums, resins, gum-resins and oleoresins (for example, balsams)
1302	Vegetable saps and extracts; pectic substances, pectinates and pectates; agar-agar and other mucilages and thickeners, whether or not modified, derived from vegetable products
1504	Fats and oils and their fractions, of fish or marine mammals, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified
1604 30	Caviar and caviar substitutes
1801 00 00	Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted
1802 00 00	Cocoa shells, husks, skins and other cocoa waste
1803	Cocoa paste, whether or not defatted
2003 20 00	Truffles (prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid)
2006 00	Vegetables, fruit, nuts, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar (drained, glacé or crystallized)
2102	Yeasts (active or inactive); other single-cell micro-organisms, dead (but not including vaccines of heading No 3002); prepared baking powders
2936	Provitamins and vitamins, natural or reproduced by synthesis (including natural concentrates), derivatives thereof used primarily as vitamins, and intermixtures of the foregoing, whether or not in any solvent
3301	Essential oils (terpeneless or not), including concretes and absolutes; resinoids; extracted oleoresins; concentrates of essential oils in fats, in fixed oils, in waxes or the like, obtained by enfleurage or maceration; terpenic by-products of the deterpenation of essential oils; aqueous distillates and aqueous solutions of essential oils

**III Maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination (caesium-134 and caesium-137) of feedingstuffs**

Animal	Bq/kg <sup>7, 8</sup>
Pigs	1 250
Poultry, lambs, calves	2 500
Other	5 000

<sup>7</sup> These levels are intended to contribute to the observance of the maximum permitted levels for foodstuffs; they do not alone guarantee such observance in all circumstances and do not lessen the requirement for monitoring contamination levels in animal products destined for human consumption.

<sup>8</sup> These levels apply to feedingstuffs as ready for consumption.



## ANNEX IV

### **Repealed Regulations**

Council Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87	(OJ L 371, 30.12.1987, p. 11)
Council Regulation (Euratom) No 2218/89	(OJ L 211, 22.7.1989, p. 1)
Commission Regulation (Euratom) No 944/89	(OJ L 101, 13.4.1989, p. 17)
Commission Regulation (Euratom) No 770/90	(OJ L 83, 30.3.1990, p. 78)

---

**ANNEX V**

**CORRELATION TABLE**

Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87	Regulation (Euratom) No 944/89	Regulation (Euratom) No 770/90	This Regulation
Articles 1 to 5 Article 6(1) first and second sentence  Article 6(2)	   Article 1 Article 2	     Article 1	Articles 1 to 5 Article 6(1) first and second subparagraphs Article 6(2) Article 7(1) Annex II Article 2(1) Article 8 Article 9 Article 10 Annex I Annex II Annex III Annex IV Annex V
Article 7			
---	---	---	
Article 8			
Annex	Annex		
		Annex	
---	---	---	
---	---	---	