Result Interpretation Guidance

Where can I find an explanation of my food testing results?

Testing of food samples can be meaningless without the correct interpretation of the results. However, interpretation may be as complex as the testing itself.

Interpretation depends on the purpose of testing:

- Does it meet all relevant regulatory requirements?
- Is it compliant?
- Is it marketable?
- What figure do I use on back of pack?

Our food consultancy compliance risk management team can provide detailed result interpretation alongside your Eurofins testing results, including commentary on the suitability of your samples.

If required, our experts can also assist with a Certificate of Compliance / Conformity to demonstrate to you and your customers that your product meets the necessary requirements for use and sale.

We offer result interpretation and conclusions for the following Eurofins laboratory testing results:

- Sections 1 to 22 cover chemistry-related testing and interpretation
- Sections 23 to 25 cover microbiological testing and interpretation

Food chemistry testing & result interpretation

1. **Nutritional results** – Which result to use on back of pack, nutritional labelling and rounding guidelines for the nutrient declaration. Confirmation of which results to use including the number of significant figures or decimal places in order not to imply a level of precision which is not true. When a '0' or less than figure can be used.

2. **Nutritional results** – Assessment of results against back of pack nutritional claims & health claims according to tolerances for food within the Food Information for Consumers (FIC) Regulation. Comments on pass/fail as well as the aspects to be taken into account when the measured value is outside the tolerance for the declared value.

3. **Supplement results** – Comparison of results against back of pack, health claims according to tolerances for food supplements within the Food Information for Consumers Regulation (FIC). Comments on pass/fail as well as the aspects to be taken into account when the measured value is outside the tolerance for the declared value.

4. **Allergens** - Assessment against allergen labelling requirements as set out in Food Information for Consumers (FIC) Regulation.

5. **Acrylamide** – Assessment of results against current Benchmark Levels (BMLs) listed in Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2158. Where a product type is not listed a clear assessment may not be possible.

6. **Acrylamide** – Assessment of results against current Benchmark Levels (BMLs) and suggested new Benchmark Levels (BMLS) as well as suggested Maximum Limits (MLs). Currently under discussion in the EU. Where a product type is not listed a clear assessment may not be possible.

7. **Additives (E Numbers)** - Assessment of results against current **GB & EU** regulations and marketability in GB & EU. Where a product type is not listed a clear assessment may not be possible.

8. **Mycotoxins: Aflatoxins, Ochratoxin A, Patulin, Deoxynivalenol (DON), Zearalenone (ZON), Fumonisins, Citrinin (GB)** – Assessment of results against current GB regulations and marketability in Great Britain. (There has been divergence from EU in limits since 2020

9. **Mycotoxins: Aflatoxins, Ochratoxin A, Patulin, Deoxynivalenol (DON), Zearalenone (ZON), Fumonisins, Citrinin, TH & HT2 (EU)** – Assessment of results compliant with current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from GB in limits since 2020)

10. **Metals (GB)** – Assessment of results against current GB regulations and marketability in GB (There has been divergence from the EU in limits since 2020).

11. **Metals (EU)** – Assessment of results compliant with current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from GB in limits since 2020)

12. **Pesticides (GB)** – Assessment of results against current GB regulations and marketability in GB (There has been divergence from the EU in limits since 2020).

13. **Pesticides (EU)** – Assessment of results compliant with current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from GB in limits since 2020).

14. **Dioxins & PCBs/Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) (GB)** – Assessment of results against current GB regulations and marketability in GB (There has been divergence from the EU in limits since 2020).

15. **Dioxins & PCBs/ Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) (EU)** – Assessment of results compliant with current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from GB in limits since 2020)

16. **Plant Toxins: Ergot alkaloids, Tropane alkaloids, Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (GB)** – Assessment of results against current GB regulations and marketability in GB (There divergence from the EU in limits since 2020).

17. **Plant Toxins: Ergot alkaloids, Tropane alkaloids, Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (EU)** – Assessment of results against current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from the GB in limits since 2020).

18. **3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol), Glycidol, Glycidyl fatty acid esters glycidol (EU)** – Assessment of results against current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from the GB in limits since 2020).

19. **Other Contaminants – Hydrocyanic acid, Perchlorate, Melamine, Nitrates (GB)** – Assessment of results against current GB regulations and marketability in GB (There has been divergence from the EU in limits since 2020). Regulations are aimed mainly at raw single products

20. **Other Contaminants – Hydrocyanic acid, Perchlorate, Melamine, Nitrates (EU)** – Assessment of results against current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from the GB in limits since 2020).

21. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) including PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS (EU) - Assessment of results against current EU regulations and marketability in EU (There has been divergence from the GB in limits since 2020

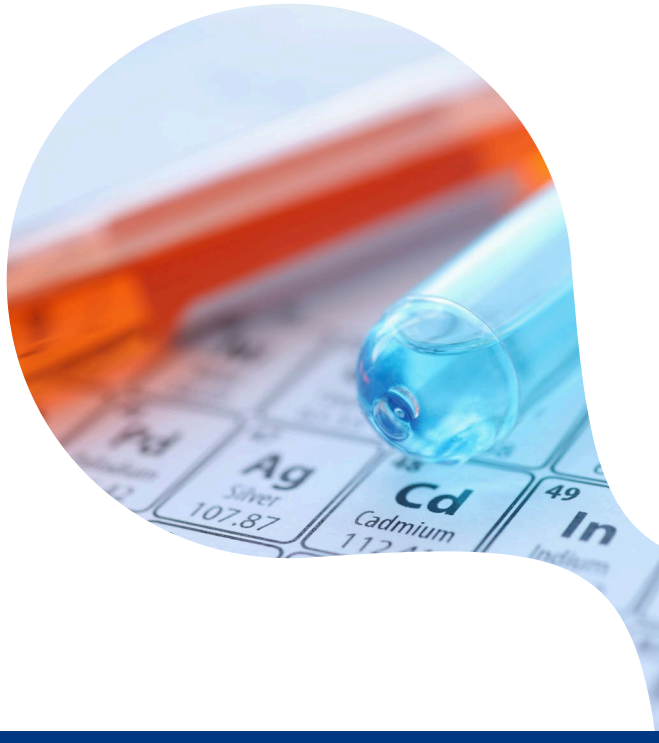
Note: Many regulations are aimed at raw single products. Where a product has been mixed and/or processed a clear assessment may not be possible as other factors must be considered to whether a product is compliant with regulations / guidance.

22. **Microbiological analysis of Ready-To-Eat food (Pathogens and Process Hygiene Indicators) (UK)** – assessment of results against UK regulations and regulatory guidance, and marketability in UK (divergence from EU regulation comes into effect from 1 July 2026).

23. **Microbiological analysis of foodstuffs (Pathogens and Process Hygiene Indicators) (EU)** – assessment of results against EU regulations and marketability in EU (divergence from EU regulation comes into effect from 1 July 2026).

24. **Shiga Toxin producing *E.coli* (STEC) testing, serotypes and virulence factors.** Assessment of results with respect to potential of isolates to cause very severe illness, (STEC HUS).

Other interpretation of microbiological results – Tailored recommendations for microbiological limits for a wide variety of foods based on risk assessment and industry norms, and interpretation of microbiological testing results against these can be carried out.



eurofins

Compliance & Risk Management

The Eurofins Food Testing Compliance & Risk Management team helps you identify and mitigate risks; microbiological, chemical, allergen, authenticity, or supply chain-related.

We interpret your testing results and provide clear, actionable recommendations and conclusions to support product safety, legal compliance and consumer confidence.

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