



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

Lead in food commodities

**Request for data on lead in cereal-based foods and ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children;
dried spices and culinary herbs; eggs; sugars and sugar-based candies
Issued 20 July 2021**

Background

The 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14) agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by Brazil to establish maximum levels (MLs) for lead in cereal-based foods and read-to-eat-meals for infant and young children, dried spices (including floral parts; bark; rhizomes, bulbs and roots), dried and fresh culinary herbs, fresh eggs, sugars and sugar-based candies for consideration by CCCF15 in 2022.

We are requesting submission of new data on lead in the following food commodities:

- Cereal-based foods for infants and young children (on a “dry matter basis” or “as is”);
- Ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children;
- Dried spices (including floral parts; bark; rhizomes, bulbs and roots);
- Dried and fresh culinary herbs;
- Fresh eggs (chicken and duck eggs);
- Sugars (white sugar, raw cane sugar, soft brown sugar, honey, syrup, molasses) and sugar-based candies (hard candies, soft candies, gummy and jelly).

We are requesting submission of new data covering approximately the last 10 years. Data should be submitted as indicated below, to allow time for data analysis and drafting of the paper by the EWG. The call for data can also be viewed online at <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-food-safety> or <http://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts-expert-rosters/en/>.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

15 October 2021.

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. **All new data must be uploaded in the GEMS database, which is easily accessible here:** <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/databases/global-environment-monitoring-system-food-contamination>. On that web page, please read the “Instructions for electronic submission of data on chemical contaminants in food and the diet” before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the Instructions manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int).

Note that data already submitted to the GEMS Food Database do not need to be re-submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please provide:

- Complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Complete information on “Local Food Name” for specific species and foods/ingredients, mainly for spices and culinary herbs, syrups, and ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children (vegetables, meats, fruits).
- Information for country of origin (for imported food);
- Information on how the cereal-based foods for infants and young children were analyzed (on a “dry matter basis” or “as is”); in case of results in dry matter basis, indicate moisture values in remarks;
- Information in the “Local Food Identifier” or “Notes” fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed (e.g. fermented, dried / dehydrated, chips, boiled, flour, etc.); and
- Information on “State of Food Analysed” e.g., cooked or raw.