

New York Monitors Heavy Metal Content in Spices

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSAGM) Division of Food Safety and Inspection is responsible for the safety of food manufactured and sold in New York State. As there are no federal heavy metal limits for spices, New York State established limits. This provides them the ability monitor and recall spices containing lead, cadmium, and arsenic.

NYS Background:

In 2016, the Department instituted a State Class I recall action level of 25 ppm for lead in spices and a State Class II recall action level of 1 ppm for inorganic arsenic, cadmium, and lead. Last year they announced an 18-month phase-in implementation period reducing the Class II limits by almost a factor of five.

- *Class I Recall:* Dangerous or defective products that predictably could cause serious health problems or death.
- *Class II Recall:* Products that might cause a temporary health problem or pose only a slight threat of a serious nature.

	Class I Recall Limit	Class II Recall Limits	New Class II Recall Limits
Lead	25 ppm	1 ppm	0.21 ppm
Cadmium	--	1 ppm	0.26 ppm
Arsenic	--	1 ppm	0.21 ppm

As part of the State's implementation strategy, NYSAGM stated they will monitor violations of the new Class II recall action level policy by sending warning letters to those parties responsible for the violation. This approach will provide importers, distributors, co-packers, manufacturers, and retailers of spices the opportunity to implement additional controls to comply with the new Class II recall action levels in the future.

California Proposition 65:

For a comparison, below are some of the lead, cadmium, and arsenic limits for specific spices within several California Proposition 65 settlements.

	Lead	Arsenic	Cadmium
Ground cinnamon	0.2 ppm	0.02 ppm	--
Ground sumac	0.2 ppm	0.02 ppm	--
Ground shrimp	0.075 ppm	0.02 ppm	0.12 ppm
Ground cumin	0.2 ppm	--	--
Turmeric powder	0.05 ppm	--	--
Curry powder	0.275 ppm	--	--
Ground sage	0.375 ppm	--	--
Ground ginger	0.72 ppm	--	--

Links to NYS websites:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-institutes-strictest-standards-country-its-testing-spices>

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/heavy-metals-spices>

How Does this Impact You? Contact Us to Discuss

If you have any comments and/or questions, please contact your customer service representative or email:

info@us.bureauveritas.com

Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, Inc. ("BVCPS") provides the information in this client bulletin as a resource of general information. It does not replace any applicable legal or regulatory requirements and is provided "as is." BVCPS will not be liable for any indirect, special, punitive, consequential or other damages (including without limitation lost profits) of any kind in connection with this client bulletin. BVCPS DISCLAIMS ALL REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CLIENT BULLETIN.