



Essential safety requirements for fertilising materials

Fertilisers Working Group meeting

2 June 2014

This version includes the comments that the COM received between 29.05 and 1.06.2014

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Essential **safety** requirements: summary of received comments

- Try to harmonise as far as possible the limit values across the fertilising materials categories. Ex: no limit value for As in GM products?
- Fears that the current list would not be sufficiently addressing unknown risks for products deriving from waste. Large support for EU EoW for various products
- National derogation for non-complying products
- Treat Cu and Zn differently: only labelling (industry request)
- Establish maximum limits according to application rates per ha and per year depending on different product categories (industry request).

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Inorganic primary and secondary nutrient fertilisers and mixtures thereof

Substance	Max. Content (mg/kg dry matter)	
	Option A (current)	Option B (new)
Cd (for products containing less than 5% P2O5)	3	1,5 (MS request)
Cd for products > 5% P2O5	To be determined	To be determined
Cr VI	2	2
Hg	2	2
Ni	120	120
Pb	150	150
As	60	60

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Micronutrient fertilisers and mixtures thereof

Heavy metal	Upper limit for heavy metal (mg heavy metal/kg micronutrients) for straight or mixtures of B, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo or Zn fertilisers
As	1000
Cd	200
Pb	600
Hg	100
Ni	2000

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Organic fertilisers

Substance	Max. conc. (mg/kg dry matter)	
	Option A (current)	Option B (new)
As	No limit	Limit to be fixed. Ideas?
Cd	1,5	3 (industry request)
Cr VI	0,5	2 (industry request)
Hg	1	1,3 (industry suggestion)
Ni	50	50
Pb	120	150 (industry suggest.)
PAHs (16 congeners)	6	6

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Organic fertilisers – Max. limit values for microorganisms – MS request

Pathogens	Maximum limit values
Salmonella spp	No Salmonella species in 25 g sample
Escherischia coli	1000 CFU/g product

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Organic fertilisers –Macroscopic impurities – MS request (green=new proposal)

- 0,5% on dry matter weight for glass, metal and plastics above 2 mm to be determined by dry sieving method.
- Stone exceeding 5 mm : max content of 2% (Member State proposal)

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Organo-mineral fertilisers - (ECOFI proposal)

Substance	Max. conc. (mg/kg dry matter)	
	Option A (Current)	Option B (New)
Cd for OM containing less than 5% P2O5	1,5	3 (industry request)
Cd for OM containing more than 5% P2O5	Same as for inorganic fertilisers	Same as for inorganic fertilisers
As	No limit	Same as for inorganic fertilisers
Cr VI	0,5	2 (same as Inorg. Fert.)
Hg	1	2 (same as Inorg. Fert.)
Ni	50	50
Pb	120	120
PAHs (16 congeners)	6	6

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Organo-mineral fertilisers – MS request

Same limit values as for organic fertilisers should apply

Pathogens	Maximum limit values
Salmonella spp	No Salmonella species in 25 g sample
Escherischia coli	1000 CFU/g product

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Organo-mineral fertilisers –Macroscopic impurities – MS request

- 0,5% on dry matter weight for glass, metal and plastics above 2 mm to be determined by dry sieving method.
- Stone exceeding 5 mm : max content of 2% (Member State proposal)

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Liming materials – Max. limit values for contaminants

Substance	Max. conc. (mg/kg dry matter)	
	Option A (current)	Option B (new)
Cd	3	3
Cr VI	Standard in development	Standard in development
Hg	2	2
Ni	90	90
Pb	200	150 (MS request)
As	120	60 (MS request)

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Organic soil improvers – EU EoW

Substance	Max. conc. (mg/kg dry matter)	
	Option A (Current)	Option B (New)
As	No limit	Limit to be fixed. Ideas?
Cd	1,5	3 (industry request)
Cr VI	0,5	2 (industry request)
Hg	1	1,3 (industry request)
Ni	50	50
Pb	120	150 (industry request)
PAHs (16 congeners)	6	6

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Organic soil improver – EU EoW

Same limit values as for organic fertilisers should apply

Pathogens	Maximum limit values
Salmonella spp	No Salmonella species in 25 g sample
Escherischia coli	1000 CFU/g product

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Organic soil improvers - Macroscopic impurities – EU EoW

- 0,5% on dry matter weight for glass, metal and plastics above 2 mm to be determined by dry sieving method.
- Stone exceeding 5 mm : max content of 2% (Member State proposal)

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Other soil improvers – (e.g. clay) Max. limit values for contaminants = liming materials

Substance	Max. conc. (mg/kg dry matter)	
	Option A (current)	Option B (new)
Cd	3	3
Cr VI	Standard in development	Suggestion for a limit?
Hg	2	2
Ni	90	90
Pb	200	150 (MS request)
As	120	60 (MS request)

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Growing media – Safety criteria

Maximum limit values for contaminants in GM (mg/kg dry matter)
 – CAT extraction method would apply for mineral GM. Otherwise extraction in mineral acid

Contaminant	Mg/kg dry matter	
	Option A (current)	Option B (new)
As	No limit	Which limit can be proposed, if any?
Cd	1.5	1.5
Cr VI	No limit	Limit to replace Cr total
Cr total	150	No limit. Replaced by Cr VI
Hg	1	1
Ni	90	90
Pb	150	150

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Growing media – MS request

Same limit values as for organic fertilisers should apply

Pathogens	Maximum limit values
Salmonella spp	No Salmonella species in 25 g sample
Escherischia coli	1000 CFU/g product

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Growing media – Viable weed seeds – MS request

- Max 2 viable weed seeds per liter for products deriving from plants
- Std to be developed

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Growing media - Macroscopic impurities – MS request

- 0,5% on dry matter weight for glass, metal and plastics above 2 mm to be determined by dry sieving method.
- Stone exceeding 5 mm : max content of 2% (Member State proposal)

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Thank you for your attention

Please send us your remarks/comments by the end of August at the latest.

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