

Canada Adopts New Melamine Recommendations

Canada is the first country to adopt new recommendations announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding consumption of melamine. The newly adopted tolerable daily intake (TDI) of melamine is 0.2 mg per kg of body weight per day. In addition to adopting the lower TDI, Canada is reducing the allowable level for melamine in infant formula from 1 part per million (ppm) to 0.5 ppm despite the fact that the WHO has said that 1 ppm provides a sufficient margin of safety.

A team of 21 international experts gathered in Ottawa to review the toxicological effects of melamine. They affirmed that they have not set a “safe” level of melamine but have established a “tolerable” level. They acknowledged that while melamine should not be in food, its presence is sometimes unavoidable. Therefore, the TDI established by these experts represents the tolerable amount of unavoidable contaminant in food that a person can ingest on a daily basis without appreciable health risk. These experts further acknowledged that the existing interim standards currently in place in many countries do provide good public health protection but recommended lowering the TDI because of uncertainties in current scientific knowledge on melamine.

China’s health ministry has confirmed the deaths of six infants who consumed milk powder tainted with melamine. Over 50,000 infants have been hospitalized, and 294,000 others have been sickened. Melamine, due to its high nitrogen content, allegedly was added to diluted milk to artificially boost the milk’s protein content.

[Click here](#) for link to World Health Organization news release.

[Click here](#) for link to Health Canada news release.

To assist manufacturers, distributors and retailers, STR offers melamine testing of raw materials, intermediate and finished products. Our hazard prevention program includes comprehensive design evaluation, safety testing, audit, inspection and responsible sourcing services. For more information, contact us at info@STRQuality.com.