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Possible maximum levels for
tropane alkaloids as discussed
at Working Group Agricultural
Contaminants for targeted
consultation of stakeholder
organisations

“Foodstuffs (¹)			
8.2	Tropane alkaloids (*)	Maximum level (µg/kg)	
		Atropine	Scopolamine
8.2.1	Processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children, containing millet, sorghum, buckwheat, corn or their derived products (²⁹)	1.0	1.0
8.2.2.	Grains of millet, sorghum, buckwheat and their milling products and maize milling products	2.0	2.0
8.2.3	Grains of maize with the exception of unprocessed maize intended to be processed by wet milling (³⁷)	10.0 (**)	5.0 (**)
8.2.4	Herbal infusions (solid or dried product)	15	15
	(***)		
8.2.5.	Herbal infusions (liquid)	0.1	0.1

(*) The tropane alkaloids referred to are atropine and scopolamine. Atropine is the racemic mixture of (-)-hyoscyamine and (+)-hyoscyamine of which only the (-)-hyoscyamine enantiomer exhibits anticholinergic activity. As for analytical reasons it is not always possible to distinguish between the enantiomers of hyoscyamine, the maximum level is established for atropine.”

(**) Maximum levels to be reviewed within 2 years from the date of application.

(***) For the protection of public health, there might be a need, besides a strict maximum level of atropine and scopolamine for maize milling products, to establish a strict maximum level for atropine and scopolamine in other maize products destined for human consumption such as popcorn (not exhaustive). Stakeholder organisations are invited to comment on this issue.

For reminder

(²⁹) The maximum level refers to the product as sold.

(³⁷) The exemption applies only for maize for which it is evident e.g. through labelling, destination, that it is intended for use in a wet milling process only (starch production).