Cambridge Commodities

Product Statement

In September 2020 the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) reported Ethylene Oxide contamination of several batches of sesame seeds originating from India or shipped from India by sea to the EU. Following on from this, the presence of this contaminant has been confirmed in other materials (plant, mineral origin, food additives) from several countries.

In the European Union, the use of Ethylene Oxide is prohibited in food products and food contact materials due to its mutagenic and carcinogenic properties. Additionally, research show, there is no safe health-based guidance values. Reg (EU) 231/2012 states ethylene oxide cannot be used to sterilize food additives and sets limits for some additives involving it in the production process. The Maximum Residue Level (MRL) as the "sum of ethylene oxide and 2-chloro-ethanol expressed in ethylene oxide" in food additives has been set at 0.1mg/kg as per regulation (EU) 2022/1396 amending the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 231/2012. For certain food products, MRLs vary depending on the product category and are specified within regulation (EU) No 2015/868.

Cambridge Commodities has a robust approval process in place, which includes checking the ETO status of all products. The approval risk assessment is detailed in QM07.SOP08 and includes:

- Country of origin/manufacture and the source
- Horizon scanning
- Reassessment of supplier assurance process for goods
- Assurance of shipping conditions
- Analysis of high-risk products
- Re-assessment if any of the above change or positive detections are made

We work in close cooperation with our suppliers and their supply chains to assess the risk of ETO contamination and request that the products supplied products are EU and UK compliant, and ETO is not in use at any stage.

ETO testing is managed on risk basis. Testing of high-risk ingredients is in place. Newly approved or reapproved natural origin ingredient are tested for ETO as well. Products not considered to be high risk are not tested unless specifically requested by the customer. Testing is performed in well known, accredited laboratories in the UK or EU, which apply reliable, accredited methods (GC-MS/MS) in accordance with current standards and regulations.

We will continue monitoring the risk associated with Ethylene Oxide contamination.

To be used as per local legislation.

FDA number: 16806073982

+44 (0) 1353 667258 | www.c-c-l.com | info@c-c-l.com

Registered in England No: 3590758 VAT No: GB 711 6598 32 Registered office: 203 Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3NX, UK.

Change History

Version	Change	Customer Notification required Yes / No
1	First Issue	N/A
2	Update with current practice	No
3	Review and update including limits for food additives	No

Document Approval

Originator		Approver	
X 24/11/2022 14:16	Cecilia Anzani Senior Quality Specialist	X 24/11/2022 14:21	Hannah Pritchard Quality manager

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