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COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2026/2335

of 21 October 2026

on monitoring the presence of chlorinated paraffins in food

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 292 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The European Food Safety Authority ('Authority') adopted an opinion in 2020 on chlorinated paraffins (CPs) in feed and food ([1]), frequently called polychlorinated alkanes (PCA) in analytical chemistry. The Authority noted that it could not perform a robust exposure assessment and consequently a complete risk characterisation, due to a lack of data and concluded that derivation of a health-based guidance value for CPs was thus not appropriate at that time, The Authority recommended among others to develop validated analytical methods for the determination of the occurrence of CPs, as well as suitable standards of CPs and reference materials. In order to enable a robust human exposure assessment, it also recommended to gather more data on the presence in food of short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) and long-chain chlorinated paraffins (LCCPs), also known, respectively as PCAs with a chain length of C_{10} to $C_{13,}$ C_{14} to C_{17} and C_{18} to C_{30}.

(2) It results from the work of the European Union Reference Laboratory for halogenated persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in feed and food on the development and validation of a method to analyse CPs in food that a method to analyse all CPs, including LCCPs, is only available at few expert laboratories.

(3) Therefore, in order to allow for robust data to be gathered and since PCAs with a chain length of C_{10}-C_{17} are the predominant group of PCAs present in food, an analytical approach whereby the sum of such PCAs in food should be determined by a method of analysis for which the equipment is more widely available and analysis less burdensome. However, in order to ensure that sufficient detailed analysis is performed without exceeding the capacity of the expert laboratories, and, in particular, in order to gather more information regarding the specific distribution in food of PCAs with different chain length and on the correlation of the sum of PCAs with a chain length of $C_{10\text{-}17}$ with longer-chained PCAs, samples from specific groups of foods exceeding a certain threshold for the sum of those PCAs derived from the existing data should subject to an analysis in expert laboratories of all PCAs, including PCAs with a chain length of C_{18}-C_{30}.

(4) It is therefore appropriate to recommend the monitoring of CPs in food,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

(1) Member States in collaboration with food business operators should monitor during the years 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029, the presence of CPs in food.

(2) The monitoring should include food groups, as specified in point (4).

(3) The sum of PCAs with chain length of C_{10}-C_{17} should be determined by Gas Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS/MS) or Gas Chromatography coupled to Low Resolution Mass Spectrometry (GC-LRMS). Where alternative measurement techniques are applied, evidence should be available that they also give results for the sum of PCAs with chain length of C_{10}-C_{17}. In case the level of sum of PCAs with chain length C_{10}-C_{17} found is higher than the threshold value specified in point (4), an analysis of all PCAs, including the PCAs with chain length C_{18}-C_{30}, should be carried out by using Liquid Chromatography (LC) or Gas Chromatography (GC) coupled with a High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS).

([1]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2020. Scientific Opinion – Risk assessment of chlorinated paraffins in feed and food. *EFSA Journal* 2020;18(3):5991, 220 pp. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.5991.

(4) The threshold values of sum of PCAs with chain length C_{10}-C_{17} are as following:

for fish	100 ng/g wet weight
for milk and dairy products	20 ng/g wet weight
for vegetable and animal oils and fats	1 000 ng/g fat
for products of animal origin other than fish, milk, dairy products and animal fats (e.g. meat, eggs, …)	300 ng/g fat
for processed foods (whole meals)	50 ng/g wet weight
for baby food	20 ng/g wet weight

(5) Member States and food business operators should provide the data to the Authority for compilation into one database in line with the requirements of Authority's Guidance on Standard Sample Description (SSD) for Food and Feed and the Authority's additional specific reporting requirements ([2]).

Done at Brussels, 21 October 2026.

For the Commission
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Member of the Commission

([2]) https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/call/call-continuous-collection-chemical-contaminants-occurrence-data-0.