Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
L series

2026/1801

28.7.2026

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2026/1801

of 24 July 2026

on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 toxins and fumonisins in feed

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

(1) The presence of the mycotoxins deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 toxins in feed are a possible concern for animal health and to a lesser extent for public health following the transfer of these mycotoxins from feed to food of animal origin. It is therefore important to recommend monitoring the presence of these mycotoxins in feed and to recommend measures when guidance values are exceeded to ensure a high level of animal health protection.

(2) Commission Recommendation 2006/576/EC ([1]) recommended that Member States increase, with the active involvement of feed business operators, the monitoring for the presence of the mycotoxins deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, fumonisin B_1 + B_2 and T-2 and HT-2 toxin in cereals and cereal products intended for animal feeding and compound feedingstuffs. In addition, guidance values were recommended for judging the acceptability of compound feed and cereal and cereal products for animal feeding.

(3) The guidance values for cereal and cereal products were recommended taking into account the then available occurrence data of those mycotoxins. The guidance values for compound feed were recommended on the basis of the outcome of the scientific opinions of the European Food Safety Authority (the Authority) on deoxynivalenol on 2 June 2004 ([2]), zearalenone on 28 July 2004 ([3]), ochratoxin A on 22 September 2004 ([4]) and fumonisins B_1 + B_2 on 22 June 2005 ([5]).

(4) In 2011, the Authority adopted a scientific opinion on the risks for animal and public health related to the presence of T-2 and HT-2 toxin in food and feed ([6]). On the basis of that opinion, Commission Recommendation 2013/165/EU ([7]) recommended that Member States perform, with the active involvement of feed business operators, monitoring for the presence of T-2 and HT-2 toxin in cereals and cereal products. Indicative levels were recommended for cereals, cereal products for feed and compound feed with the exception of feed for cats. Given that cats are amongst the most sensitive animal species, a guidance value was recommended in Commission Recommendation 2006/576/EC as amended by Commission Recommendation 2013/637/EU ([8]).

([1]) Commission Recommendation of 17 August 2006 on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding (OJ L 229, 23.8.2006, p. 7, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2006/576/oj).

([2]) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the food chain [CONTAM] related to deoxynivalenol (DON) as undesirable substance in animal feed. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2004.73.

([3]) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM) related to zearalenone as undesirable substance in animal feed. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2004.89.

([4]) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the food chain [CONTAM] related to ochratoxin A (OTA) as undesirable substance in animal feed. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2004.101.

([5]) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the food chain [CONTAM] related to fumonisins as undesirable substances in animal feed. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2005.235.

([6]) EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM); Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and public health related to the presence of T-2 and HT-2 toxin in food and feed. *EFSA Journal* 2011; 9(12):2481. 187 pp. Available at : https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2011.2481.

([7]) Commission Recommendation 2013/165/EU of 27 March 2013 on the presence of T-2 and HT-2 toxin in cereals and cereal products (OJ L 91, 3.4.2013, p. 12, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2013/165/oj).

([8]) Commission Recommendation 2013/637/EU of 4 November 2013 amending Recommendation 2006/576/EC as regards T-2 and HT-2 toxin in compound feed for cats (OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p. 44. ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2013/637/oj).

(5) On deoxynivalenol, in 2013 the Authority published a scientific report on the occurrence and exposure ([9]) of that substance and in 2017 it adopted an opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of deoxynivalenol and its acetylated and modified forms in food and feed ([10]). The Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM Panel) identified reduced feed intake, and reduced body weight gain as critical chronic adverse effects for farm and companion animals and identified reference points for adverse animal health effects (no observed adverse effect levels (NOAELs) or lowest observed adverse effect levels (LOAELs)) for these effects. In 2022, the Authority adopted an opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of deoxynivalenol for horses and poultry ([11]). The reference points for adverse animal health effects were lowered for horses, broiler chickens and turkeys.

(6) On zearalenone, in 2017 the Authority adopted an opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed ([12]). Reference points for adverse animal health effects were identified for farm and companion animals.

(7) On ochratoxin A, in 2023 the Authority adopted an opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of ochratoxin A (OTA) in feed ([13]). Reference points for adverse animal health effects were identified for pigs, chickens for fattening, hens, rabbits and herbivore fish.

(8) On fumonisins B_1 + B_2, in 2018 the Authority adopted an opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of fumonisins, their modified forms and hidden forms in feed ([14]). The Authority's CONTAM Panel identified NOAELs for cattle, pig, poultry (chicken, ducks and turkeys), horses, and LOAELs for fish (extrapolated from carp) and rabbits. No reference points could be identified for sheep, goats, dogs, cats and mink. In 2022, the Authority adopted an opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of fumonisins for pigs, poultry and horses ([15]). The reference points for adverse animal health effects were lowered for poultry and horses.

(9) On T-2 and HT-2 toxin, in 2017 the Authority adopted a scientific report on the human and animal dietary exposure to T-2 and HT-2 toxin ([16]) and in 2022 it adopted an opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of T-2 and HT-2 toxin for ruminants ([17]). The reference points for adverse animal health effects were lowered for sheep and cows.

(10) Taking into account the more recent occurrence data and the outcome of the more recent scientific opinions, the existing guidance values should be updated to ensure a high level of animal health protection.

([9]) European Food Safety Authority, 2013. Deoxynivalenol in food and feed: occurrence and exposure. *EFSA Journal* 2013;11(10):3379, 56 pp. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3379.

([10]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain) 2017. Scientific Opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of deoxynivalenol and its acetylated and modified forms in food and feed. *EFSA Journal* 2017;15(9):4718, 345 pp. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4718.

([11]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2023. Scientific Opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of deoxynivalenol for horses and poultry. *EFSA Journal* 2023;21(2):7806, 30 pp. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7806.

([12]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2017. Scientific opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed. *EFSA Journal* 2017;15(7):4851, 123 pp. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4851.

([13]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2023. Risks for animal health related to the presence of ochratoxin A (OTA) in feed. *EFSA Journal*,21(11), 1–89. Available at: https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.8375.

([14]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2018. Scientific opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of fumonisins, their modified forms and hidden forms in feed. *EFSA Journal* 2018;16(5):5242, 144 pp. Available at https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5242.

([15]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2022. Scientific Opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of fumonisins for pigs, poultry and horses. *EFSA Journal* 2022;20(8):7534, 26 pp. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7534.

([16]) EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Arcella D, Gergelova P, Innocenti ML and Steinkellner H, 2017. Scientific report on human and animal dietary exposure to T-2 and HT-2 toxin. *EFSA Journal* 2017;15(8):4972, 57 pp. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4972.

([17]) EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2022. Scientific Opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of T-2 and HT-2 toxin for ruminants. *EFSA Journal* 2022;20(9):7564, 17 pp. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7564.

(11) The guidance values for feed materials should be established taking into account the occurrence data thereby acknowledging the regional and high year-to-year variation.

(12) The guidance values for complete feed should be based on the reference points for adverse animal health risks. Exceedance of these guidance values in complete feed or complementary feed, taking into account the proportion prescribed for their use in daily ration, might result in adverse animal health effects. It is therefore highly recommended that these guidance values are not exceeded.

(13) Given the substantial changes to the guidance values, it is appropriate to establish a new Recommendation. Recommendations 2006/576/EC and 2013/165/EU should therefore be replaced,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

(1) Member States are recommended to monitor, with the active involvement of feed business operators, the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 toxins and fumonisin $B_1 + B_2$ in feed.

(2) Member States are recommended to ensure, with the active involvement of feed business operators, that samples are simultaneously analysed for the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 toxin and fumonisin $B_1 + B_2$ to allow the extent of co-occurrence to be assessed.

(3) Member States are recommended to ensure that all feed business operators and farmers apply the guidance values, as set out in the Annex, for judging the acceptability of feed materials and compound feed for animal feeding. Feed business operators should use, in their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system ([18]), the guidance values referred to in the Annex to determine the critical limits at critical control points which separate acceptability from unacceptability, for the prevention, elimination or reduction of identified hazards. Guidance values are indicated for certain feed materials and complete feed.

(4) For complementary feed, it is recommended that the guidance values for complete feed are applied, taking into account the proportion prescribed for their use in a daily ration. However, the guidance value for complementary feed should not be higher than the level calculated taking into account the guidance value recommended for the feed materials and the relative proportion of the feed materials in the complementary feed.

(5) To ensure a high level of animal health protection, all feed business operators and farmers should ensure that feed exceeding the guidance values is only placed on the market or used when precautionary measures aimed at protection of animal health are taken by feed business operators and farmers. It is recommended that Member States observe that such precautionary measures are put in place.

(6) In particular, feed materials as well as complete and complementary feed intended for placing on the market should be carefully assessed to ascertain if they exceed the guidance values. In such case, to ensure that these products remain 'sound, genuine, unadulterated, fit for its purpose and of merchantable quality', as provided for in Article 4(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([19]) appropriate measures should be taken including providing clear information about the mycotoxin content to the buyer. In addition, when the guidance value for complete feed, as well as for complementary feed and for feed materials

([18]) Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 35, 8.2.2005, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/183/oj).

([19]) Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed, amending European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and repealing Council Directive 79/373/EEC, Commission Directive 80/511/EEC, Council Directives 82/471/EEC, 83/228/EEC, 93/74/EEC, 93/113/EC and 96/25/EC and Commission Decision 2004/217/EC (OJ L 229, 1.9.2009, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/767/oj).

intended to be fed directly to the animals, is exceeded, a risk assessment should be performed to ensure that the feed safety requirement, as provided for in Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([20]) and in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 is complied with taking into account, if necessary, the implementation of appropriate risk mitigation measures.

(7) In order to enable the compound feed manufacturer to produce safe feed, in particular for the more sensitive animal species thereby ensuring a high level of animal health protection, it should be ensured that sufficient information about the mycotoxin content of feed materials is provided to compound feed manufacturers by the suppliers, taking into account existing business-to-business contractual and non-contractual practices with regard to the communication of information on product specifications.

(8) Member States and feed business operators are recommended to provide to the Authority, by 30 June of each year, the data for the previous year for compilation into one database in line with the requirements of the Authority's Guidance on Standard Sample Description (SSD) for Food and Feed and the Authority's additional specific reporting requirements ([21]).

(9) The guidance values established in the Annex to this Recommendation should be taken into consideration as from 1 July 2027, with the exception of the guidance values for the feed materials maize, sorghum, soybean and sunflower and their products, which should be taken into consideration as from 1 October 2027. This recommendation shall replace Commission Recommendations 2006/576/EC and 2013/165/EU as from 1 July 2027.

Done at Brussels, 24 July 2026.

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

([20]) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/178/oj).

([21]) https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/call/annual-call-continuous-collection-chemical-contaminants-occurrence-data-food-and-feed-0.

ANNEX

GUIDANCE VALUES

Deoxynivalenol	Guidance value in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %
Feed materials ([1])	
Cereals and products derived thereof ([2]) with the exception of maize and maize products	4.0
Maize and maize products ([3])	8.0
Clover meal, green silage ([4]), forage meal ([4]), green forage and lucerne (products)	4.0
Sugar beet products	4.0
Soybean and products derived thereof	2.5
Oil seeds, oil fruits, and products derived thereof with the exception of soybean and products derived thereof	0.5
Complete feed	
Complete feed with the exception of	5.0
— complete feed for porcine species	0.7
— complete feed for calves (< 4 months), lambs, kids and dogs	2.0
— complete feed for equines	3.5
— complete feed for chickens for fattening and turkeys	1.0
— complete feed for leporids	4.0
— complete feed for fur animals	1.0
— complete feed for aquatic animals	0.5

T-2 and HT-2 toxin	Guidance value in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %
Feed materials (1) (2)	
Oats (with husk)	1.5
Cereals, other than oats with husk	0.2
Oat milling products (including husk), including oat pulp	3.0
Products derived from cereals other than oat milling products	0.5
Green silage	0.2
Complete feed	
Complete feed with the exception of	0.2
— complete feed for laying hens, and aquatic animals	0.5
— complete feed for ovines	0.05
— complete feed for poultry other than laying hens	0.1
— complete feed for cats	0.05

Zearalenone	Guidance value in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %
Feed materials (1)	
Cereals and products derived thereof (2) with the exception of maize and maize products	1.0
Maize and maize products (3)	2.0
Sugar beet products	2.0
Oil seeds, oil fruits, and products derived thereof except soya hulls	0.5
Soya hulls	1.0
Green silage (4), forage meal (4), hay and lucerne (products)	1.0
Complete feed	
Complete feed with the exception of	2.0
— complete feed for piglets of porcine species, porcine species reared for reproduction, puppies, kittens, adult dogs and cats for reproduction	0.1
— complete feed for sows and boars of porcine species, porcine species for fattening	0.25
— complete feed for adult dogs and cats other than for reproduction	0.2
— complete feed for aquatic animals	0.3
— complete feed for dairy cattle (including calves), ovines (including lambs), caprine (including kids)	0.5
— complete feed for equines and cattle for fattening	1.0

Fumonisin B1 + B2	Guidance value in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %
Feed materials ([1])	
Maize grains	20
Maize products ([3])	40
Cereals and products derived thereof ([2]) with the exception of maize grains and maize products	2.5
Soybean and products derived thereof	1.0
Complete feed	
Complete feed with the exception of:	5.0
— complete feed for adult ruminants and fur animals	30
— complete feed for calves (< 4 months), lambs and kids	10
— complete feed for poultry except turkeys and ducks	2.0
— complete feed for turkeys	20
— complete feed for equines	1.0
— complete feed for leporids	1.0
— complete feed for porcine species	1.0

Ochratoxin A	Guidance value in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %
Feed materials ([1])	
Cereals and products derived thereof ([2])	0.05
Oil seeds, oil fruits, and products derived thereof	0.05
Horse bean and products derived thereof	0.05
Lucerne (products)	0.05
Complete feed	
Complete feed with the exception of	0.02
— complete feed for porcine species	0.01
— complete feed for poultry	0.03
— complete feed for cats and dogs	0.01
— complete feed for leporids	0.01
— complete feed for aquatic animals	0.05

([1]) Particular attention should be paid to feed materials intended to be fed directly to the animals to ensure that their use in a daily ration should not lead to the animal being exposed to a higher level of these mycotoxins than the corresponding levels of exposure where only complete feed are used in a daily ration.

([2]) The reference to cereals, oats and products derived thereof includes not only the feed materials listed under heading 1 'Cereal grains and products derived thereof' of the list of feed materials referred to in part C of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 68/2013 of 16 January 2013 on the Catalogue of feed materials (OJ L 29, 30.1.2013, p.1) but also other feed materials derived from cereals in particular cereal straw and other cereal forages and roughages, and includes also pseudocereals (such as buckwheat and quinoa) and products derived thereof.

([3]) The term 'Maize and maize products' includes not only the feed materials listed under heading 1 'Cereal grains and products derived thereof' of the list of feed materials referred to in part C of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 68/2013 of 16 January 2013 on the Catalogue of feed materials (OJ L 29, 30.1.2013, p.1) but also other feed materials derived from maize, in particular maize silage and other maize forages and roughages.

([4]) The term 'green silage' refers to the ensiled biomass from arable land and grassland consisting of any grass, legume plants or herbs (other than cereals, maize, sugar beet and soya) and the term 'forage meal' to the product obtained by drying and milling and in some cases compacting forage plants (other than cereals, maize, sugar beet and soya) (list of feed materials referred to in part C of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 68/2013 of 16 January 2013 on the Catalogue of feed materials (OJ L 29, 30.1.2013, p.1)).