



15 January 2019

(19-0232)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/French

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: CANADA If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Health Canada
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Cyanide in apricot kernels (ICS Code: 67.080)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Health Canada's Proposal to Add Cyanide in Apricot Kernels to the List of Contaminants and Other Adulterating Substances in Foods. Language(s): English and French. Number of pages: 7
6. Description of content: Food contaminants and other adulterating substances are chemicals that may be present in foods at levels that could impact the overall safety and/or quality of foods. These substances can either be inadvertently or naturally present in foods or in some cases intentionally added for fraudulent purposes. Establishing a prohibition or a maximum level (ML) are forms of risk management that may be employed to eliminate or reduce exposure to a particular chemical contaminant in foods. Canadian prohibitions and MLs for chemical contaminants in food are set out in Part 1 and Part 2, respectively, of the List of Contaminants and Other Adulterating Substances in Foods, which is incorporated by reference into section B.15.001 of Division 15 of the Food and Drug Regulations (the Regulations). Maximum levels are also set out in the List of Maximum Levels for Various Chemical Contaminants in Foods, which is maintained on Health Canada's website. All prohibitions and MLs for contaminants in food are established by Health Canada's Food Directorate based on scientific evidence and in consultation with stakeholders and are enforceable by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. New information regarding how raw apricot kernels are being sold in Canada is available. There are also indications that consumers may not be aware of or follow Health Canada's existing consumption advisory for adults to consume no more than three bitter apricot kernels a day and that they should not be consumed by children. This suggests that further risk management actions are required to address any potential health risks associated with acute cyanide poisoning from the consumption of raw apricot kernels, which can lead to serious adverse health effects. The purpose of this notice is to seek feedback on three risk management options to protect Canadians from the risk of cyanide exposure due to the consumption of apricot kernels.
7. Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.

<p>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
<p>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Health Canada's Food and Nutrition - "Public Involvement and Partnerships" Website, posted 19 December 2018 (available in English and French):</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/public-involvement-partnerships.html (English)</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/services/aliments-nutrition/participation-public-partenariats.html (French)</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): The proposed ML will be legally enabled once it is published in Health Canada's List of Contaminants and Other Adulterating Substances in Foods (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/chemical-contaminants/contaminants-adulterating-substances-foods.html).</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): The ML noted in this document comes into force the day on which the modifications are made to the List of Contaminants and Other Adulterating Substances in Foods (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/chemical-contaminants/contaminants-adulterating-substances-foods.html).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 4 March 2019</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>

13. Text(s) available from: [] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

The electronic version of the regulatory text can be downloaded at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/public-involvement-partnerships/proposal-update-maximum-levels-cyanide-apricot-kernals/document.html>
(English)

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/services/aliments-nutrition/participation-public-partenariats/proposition-visant-mettre-jour-concentrations-maximales-cyanure-amandes-apricots/document.html> (French)

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