



Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of several thousand substances that have been used for decades in many industrial applications and whose residues are now ubiquitous in the environment.

What all compounds have in common is that they are not readily biodegradable and are therefore classified as persistent. They enter our food through bioaccumulation within the food chain, but also through packaging and contact materials.

There is scientific evidence that accumulation of PFAS in the humans and animals can cause health problems. Liver diseases and negative effects on the immune system are particularly critical.

For foodstuffs of concern (fish, crustaceans and molluscs, meat and offal, eggs), the EU Commission has set maximum permissible levels for the four most relevant compounds (PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS)

(Regulation (EU) No. 2022/2388). These were added to the Annex of the Contaminants Regulation in 2023 and can now be included in the new Contaminants Regulation (EU) No. 2023/915.

In addition to these maximum levels, an EU monitoring recommendation for other foodstuffs has been adopted to assess the exposure these foodstuffs (Commission Recommendation (EU) No. 2022/1431). To this end, 18 other PFASs and six newly emerging compounds will be investigated. Reference levels have also been set for fruit, vegetables, wild mushrooms, milk and foods for infants and young children, above which the source of contamination should be assessed.



Test packages from the AGROLAB laboratories

Package	Name	Limit of determination [µg/kg]	Scope of analysis
AGROLAB LUFA GmbH			
13909	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Food & Feed	0,1	PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS (four compounds with maximum levels in food)
14910	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Milk and dairy products	0,01-0,02	PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS (four compounds for testing the guideline values for milk and dairy products)
13910	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Fish oil and other oils	0,25	PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS (four compounds for monitoring in fats and oils)
13954	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Recommendation (EU) No 2022/1431 (Food)	0,1-0,25	24 of the 28 compounds from the EU monitoring recommendations
13955	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Recommendation (EU) No. 2022/1431 (Oils & Fats)	0,25	24 of the 28 compounds from the EU monitoring recommendations
AGROLAB Dr. Verwey B.V.			
524220	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Regulation (EU) No. 2023/915	0,01	PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS (four compounds with maximum levels in food)
524230	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Recommendation (EU) No. 2022/1431	0,01-0,1	27 of the 28 compounds from the EU monitoring recommendations
524221	Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - WAC - BE/FR Recommendation	0,01-0,1	Full scope of WAC-IV/A/025 (42 compounds); method water analysis validated for food and feed

The AGROLAB GROUP offers robust and efficient LC-MS/MS methods at two locations. At AGROLAB LUFA GmbH in Kiel, these methods are accredited for all of the matrices mentioned above with maximum content. In addition, we also test fish oils and other oils for PFAS contamination at this location.

For the other PFAS substances within the scope of the EU monitoring recommendation, we also offer methods with a lower limit of quantification.

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Contact us

For questions and explanations, please contact your regional sales representative directly. You can find your contact person at www.agrolab.de in our contact finder. Your personal sales representative will be happy to advise you and provide you with an offer tailored to your needs.



Your plus: Our know-how

- + Our customer service in the laboratories provides you with individual support for all questions relating to your order and your product.
- + With our many years of experience in food and feed analysis, we can also help you with difficult questions and special requests and offer competent, personalized solutions.
- + If you have any questions about prices, services and sample logistics, please contact your regional contact person.
- + State-of-the-art analysis methods
- + Our in-house methods (LC-MS/MS) comply with the requirements of the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2022/1428 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the control of perfluoroalkyl substances in certain foods.