



NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: <u>CANADA</u> 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): Microbiological criteria for food (ICS Codes: 67.050; 07.100.30)
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: Proposal to modify the tables of Microbiological Criteria for Food and Microbiological Reference Methods for Food and publish a new guidance document. Language(s): English and French. Number of pages: -
6. Description of content: Health Canada conducted a comprehensive review of microbiological criteria for food. The review considered current scientific evidence, surveillance and epidemiological data, risk assessments, results of previous targeted consultations, comments received during the modernization of Part B of the <i>Food and Drug Regulations</i> , and international comparisons. The proposed criteria are considered achievable by industry and realistic to implement. As a result of the review, Health Canada is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• update the regulatory microbiological criteria (i.e., microbiological standards) in the Table of Microbiological Criteria for Food and the Table of Microbiological Reference Methods for Food;• publish a new guidance document containing some of the updated non-regulatory microbiological criteria (i.e., microbiological guidelines) currently outlined in the 2008 <i>Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) Standards and Guidelines for Microbiological Safety of Food – An Interpretive Summary</i>. The purpose of this document is to publicly announce Health Canada's intention in this regard and to provide the appropriate contact information for those wishing to submit comments, inquiries or new scientific information relevant to the proposed modifications.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CXG 21-1997 Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods. • CXC 33-1985 Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters. • CXC 66-2008 Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children. <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 type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input checked="" 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 "Notices of proposal and notices of modification" web page, posted on 11 June 2026: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/notices-proposal-notices-modification.html https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/services/aliments-nutrition/legislation-lignes-directrices/lois-reglements/avis-proposition-avis-modification.html (available in English and French)</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): The proposed modification described in the notice would be legally enabled once published in Health Canada's <i>Table of Microbiological Criteria for Food</i> and the <i>Table of Microbiological Reference Methods for Food</i> (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/meeting-food-safety-standards/microbiological-criteria-food.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 proposed modification described in the notice would come into force the day it is made to the <i>Table of Microbiological Criteria for Food</i> and the <i>Table of Microbiological Reference Methods for Food</i> (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/meeting-food-safety-standards/microbiological-criteria-food.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): 25 August 2026</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 notice "Proposal to modify the tables of Microbiological Criteria for Food and Microbiological Reference Methods for Food and publish a new guidance document" is available through the following web links (in English and French):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/notices-proposal-notices-modification/tables-microbiological-criteria-food-reference-methods-publish-new-guidance.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/services/aliments-nutrition/legislation-lignes-directrices/lois-reglements/avis-proposition-avis-modification/tableaux-criteres-microbiologiques-aliments-methodes-reference-publier-nouveau-orientation.html>

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