

NewsLetter



Listeria criteria

EU revision to Micro Criteria for Food Regs

The EU have published a revision to the Food Safety Criteria for “Ready-to-eat foods able to support the growth of *L. monocytogenes*, other than those intended for infants and for special medical purposes”

Prior to the change, the criteria for *L.monocytogenes* applied before the products left the control of the producing food business operator.

The revision, set out in Regulation [2024/2895](#) extends the criteria for “not detected in 25g” to products “where such foods are placed on the market during their shelf-life and for which the producing food business operator has not been able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the competent authority, that the level of *Listeria monocytogenes* will not exceed the limit of 100 cfu/g **throughout their shelf-life.**”

The revised criteria will apply in the EU and Northern Ireland from 1st July 2026.

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Listeria hysteria?

Why are the food industry concerned about the revisions to the *L.monocytogenes* criteria?

The Chilled Food Association state that the increase of Listeriosis across the EU is due to lack of enforcement of the existing legislation which itself is sufficient. Introducing a tougher standard for *L.monocytogenes* will increase the burden on food industry without improving food safety.

You can read their [comments on the draft legislation here.](#)

Will changes affect the UK?

The changes to the *Listeria* criteria will apply in the EU and Northern Ireland from 1st July 2026.

They will not apply to food businesses in Great Britain unless they are exporting relevant foods to the EU or moving them to NI.

At the time of writing, the Food Standards Agency have not commented on whether similar revisions will be made to GB law.

More information

Relevant ABC Food Law resources:

Webinars:

- [Microbiological Criteria for Foods Regulation](#)
- [Control of *Listeria* in Food Processing](#)

Online course

- [UKHSA Ready to Eat Guidelines](#)

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