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**Possible maximum levels for ergot and ergot alkaloids as discussed at Working Group Agricultural Contaminants for targeted consultation of stakeholder organisations**

**1) The possible maximum levels for ergot alkaloids under discussion relate to the sum of 12 ergot alkaloids**

The sum of the following 12 ergot alkaloids : ergometrine, ergosine, ergocornine, ergotamine, ergocristine, ergocryptine and their respective -inine forms.

**2) Possible maximum levels under discussion relating to the sum of individual ergot alkaloids are set as lowerbound concentrations.**

The possible maximum levels for ergot alkaloids as discussed are lowerbound concentrations. Lowerbound concentrations are calculated on the assumption that all the values of the different individual ergot alkaloids below the limit of quantification are equal to zero.

(For cereal grains, the Limit of Quantification to be achieved for the individual epimers is 10 µg/kg).

For cereal milling products, the Limit of Quantification to be achieved for the individual epimers is 4 µg/kg).

For final cereal based consumer products, the Limit of Quantification to be achieved for the individual epimers is 2 µg/kg.

### 3) Possible maximum levels for ergot sclerotia and ergot alkaloids under discussion

"2.9	<b>Ergot sclerotia and ergot alkaloids</b>	
2.9.1.	<b>Ergot sclerotia</b>	
2.9.1.1.	Unprocessed cereals <sup>18</sup> with the exception of corn and rice	<b>0.2 g/kg (*)</b>
2.9.2.	<b>Ergot alkaloids(**)</b>	
2.9.2.1.	Barley, wheat, spelt, oats milling products	75 µg/kg (***)
2.9.2.2.	Rye milling products	250 µg/kg (***)
2.9.2.3.	Processed cereal based food for infants and young children	20 µg/kg (***)"

(\*) The sampling shall be performed in accordance with point B of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) 401/2006 (OJ L 70, 9.3.2006, p. 12).  
The analysis shall be performed by microscopic examination.

(\*\*) Sum of 12 ergot alkaloids: ergocristine/ergocristinine; ergotamine/ergotaminine; ergocryptine/ergocryptinine; ergometrine/ergometrinine; ergosine/ergosinine; ergocornine/ergocorninine. – The levels are lowerbound

(\*\*\*) Levels to be reviewed in 2 years' time

(<sup>18</sup>) The maximum level applies to unprocessed cereals placed on the market for first-stage processing.  
'First-stage processing' means any physical or thermal treatment, other than drying, of or on the grain. Cleaning, including scouring, sorting and drying procedures are not considered to be "first-stage processing" insofar as the whole grain remains intact after cleaning and sorting.  
Scouring is cleaning cereals by brushing and/or scrubbing it vigorously, combined with dust removal (e.g. aspiration). The scouring could be followed by a colour sorting before milling.

In case scouring is applied in the presence of ergot sclerotia, the cereals need to undergo a first cleaning step before scouring.

Integrated production and processing systems means systems whereby all incoming lots of cereals are cleaned, sorted and processed in the same establishment. In such integrated production and processing systems, the maximum level applies to the unprocessed cereals after cleaning and sorting but before first-stage processing.  
Food business operators shall ensure compliance through their HACCP procedure whereby an effective monitoring procedure is established and implemented at this critical control point."