

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Ink curing agents (ITX and EHDAB)

#### Description

##### Ink curing agents

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opened its scientific investigation into ITX and related chemical 2-ethylhexyl-4-dimethylaminobenzoate (EHDAB) after traces of the ink products were found by Italy's regulators in baby milk products. The ink curing agent was found to have migrated through the packaging into the milk and juices. ITX is used in the curing of ink during the ultraviolet printing process.

In its original statement on ITX on 24 November 2005, EFSA said: *"On the basis of the very limited data available today, the presence of ITX in food could be considered undesirable but it is not likely to present a health risk at the levels reported."*

The European Commission had asked the agency to make further scientific studies into ITX following a request by the Italian government.

ITX is not prohibited for use in food packaging by the EU, the EFSA said in its report. It is also not listed on the World Health Organisation's prohibited list.

In fruit juices, fruit nectars and drinks indicated as "cloudy" due to the presence of fruit pulp and fibres, the levels of ITX ranged from less than 5 microgram/l up to 249 microgram/l. The levels of EHDAB ranged from less than 5 microgram/l up to 125 microgram/l. The highest values were reported for smaller packing sizes. In fruit juices, fruit nectars, water, and drinks indicated as "clear", neither ITX nor EHDAB were detected.

#### Method description

##### Method

ITX and EHDAB are extracted from the sample by liquid extraction and the extract is analyzed using a LC-MSMS

#### Scope of the method

##### Matrices : Foodstuff

Analytes	Limit of reporting (ppb)
ITX	5
EHDAB	5

<b><u>Turn around times:</u></b>	urgent	next working day
	normal	<5 working days

**Minimal sample quantity:** 50 gr