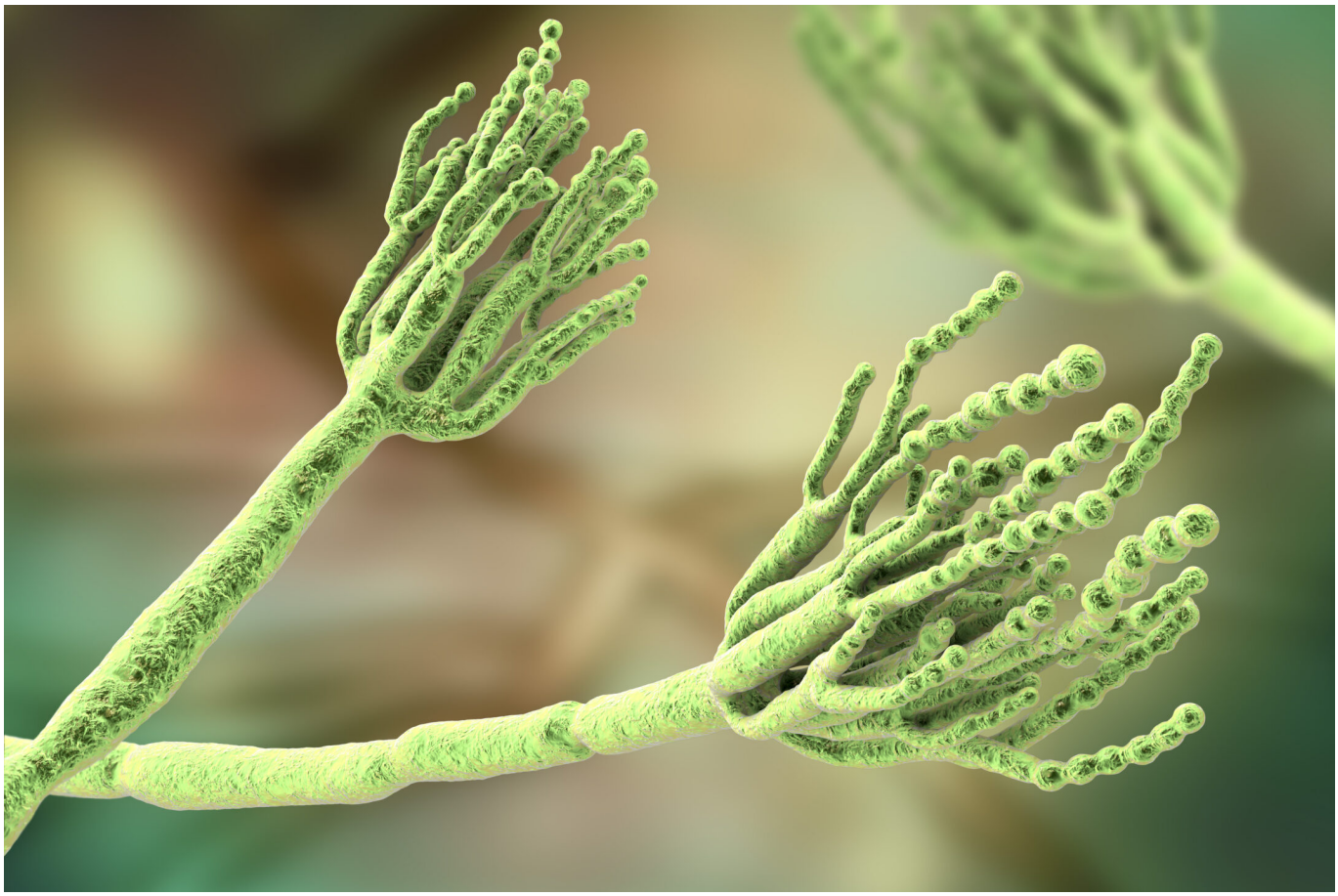
EU guidance values for key mycotoxins in animal feeds



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EU guidance values for key mycotoxins in animal feeds

After years of discussions, and the publication by EFSA of several scientific opinions in the past 10 years, the new EC recommendation on the presence of deoxynivalenol (DON), zearalenone (ZEA), ochratoxin A (OTA), T-2 and HT-2 toxins (T-2/HT-2) and fumonisins (FB1+2) in feed is out!
EW Nutrition dissected the new recommendation – see below the summary of the key points.

> ***2006 : first recommendation of mycotoxin levels in raw materials and feed destined to animal feed is published (2006/576/EC).***
> • Toxicity for animals is recognized, risk for humans (consuming animal products) is considered marginal
> • T-2/HT-2 not considered, by lack of data and reliable analytical method. The EC is amended in 2013 (2013/637/EU) to provide guidance value for cat feed (considered most at risk)
> • The need for more analysis (occurrence data), especially simultaneous analysis (for co-occurrence estimation) is stressed
> • Values for cereals and their products are set as upper values, considering most tolerant species, and should be used carefully.
>
> ***2026: 20 years of research have enriched the knowledge and risk understanding, so now much more complete recommendations are out.***

• Switch from considering “toxic effects” to “animal health” > better consideration for sub-clinical toxicity
• Risk for humans no longer considered marginal
• Need for continuous monitoring still up to date
• New EFSA opinions fed the European commission for this new recommendation (mainly from 2017 to 2023, depending on the mycotoxin)
• Very new: the EC acknowledges the use of mitigation measures when the guidance values cannot be respected!
• Recommendation coming into effect July 1, 2027 (October 1, 2027 for some raw materials).
• Many more categories included: recommendations for aqua species, equines, rabbits; inclusion of soybean and oilseed feedstuffs, forages…

		Guidance value in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feedstuff with a moisture content of 12 %	
		2006/576/EC	*2026/1801*
DON	**Feed materials**		
	Cereals except for	8	4
	- Corn	-	8
	- Corn products	12	8
	Clover meal, green silage, forage meal, green forage and lucerne	-	4
	Sugar beet products	-	4
	Soybean and products	-	2.5
	Complete feed except for	5	5
	- Swine	0.9	0.7
	- Young ruminants	2	2
	- Broilers and turkeys	-	1
	- Equines	-	3.5
	- Rabbits	-	4
	- Aqua species	-	0.5
	- Fur animals	-	1
T2 HT-2	**Feed materials**		
	Cereals except for	-	0.5
	- Oats with husk	-	1.5
	- Oat products	-	3
	- Other cereals	-	0.2
	- Other cereal products	-	0.5
	Green silage	-	0.2
	Complete feed except for	-	0.2
	- Laying hens, aqua species	-	0.5
	- Other poultry	-	0.1
	- Ovines	-	0.05
	- Cats	0.05	0.05
ZEA	**Feed materials**		
	Cereals except for	8	4
	- Corn	-	8
	- Corn products	12	8
	Sugar beet products	-	2
	Oil seeds, oil fruits and products	-	0.5
	Soya hulls	-	1
	Green silage, forage meal, hay, lucerne products	-	1
	Complete feed except for	-	2
	- Piglets and gilts	0.1	0.1
	- Sows and fattening pigs	0.25	0.25
	- Dairy cattle, ovines and caprine	0.5	0.5
	- Cattle for fattening and equine	-	1
	- Young and breeding cats and dogs	-	0.1
	- Adult cats and dogs	-	0.2
	- Aqua species	-	0.3
FB1 +2	**Feed materials**		
	Cereals except for	-	2.5
	- Corn	60	20
	- Corn products	60	40
	Complete feed except for	-	5
	- Swine	5	1
	- Poultry except turkeys and ducks	20	2
	- Turkeys	20	20
	- Rabbits	5	1
	- Equine	5	1
	- Young ruminants	20	10
	- Adult ruminants and fur animals	50	30
	- Fish	10	5
OTA	**Feed materials**		
	Cereals and products	0.25	0.05
	Oil seeds, oil fruits and products	-	0.05
	Horse bean and products	-	0.05
	Lucerne	-	0.05
	Complete feed except for	-	0.02
	- Swine	0.05	0.01
	- Poultry	0.1	0.03
	- Rabbits	-	0.01
	- Aqua species	-	0.05
	- Cats and dogs	-	0.01

How can EW Nutrition help you?

- We provide EU-approved proven mitigation strategies to secure your feed and animal performance, in a profitable way. Contact us to find the adequate solution for your situation.
- With our team of experts, we support you in measuring, understanding and managing mycotoxin risk, for sustainable operations and production.