

## Communication 057/2025

10 December 2025

### **Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in cereal products: Based on current knowledge, no health impairments are expected**

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According to measurements carried out by an association, commercially available cereal products contain residues of TFA (trifluoroacetic acid). The average concentration was 0.078 milligrams (mg) per kilogram (kg), with the highest value at 0.360 mg/kg (muesli). In response to enquiries from the public, the BfR has carried out an initial assessment based on the published values.

The result: a person weighing 60 kilograms (kg) would have to eat at least eight kg of muesli a day to exceed the health-based guidance value for TFA of 0.05 mg per kg of body weight, based on the highest measured value. Therefore, based on current knowledge, no impairments are expected.

The BfR has no information regarding the actual sources of the reported concentrations of trifluoroacetic acid in cereal products. TFA can be formed as a degradation product (metabolite) of various pesticides. However, other pathways of entry are also known, for example via fluorinated refrigerants and propellants.

As part of the renewal of the approval of the active substance flufenacet, an acceptable daily intake (ADI) of 0.05 milligrams per kilogram of body weight was derived. An acute reference dose (ARfD) was not considered necessary by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) during the renewal. In accordance with the current state of science and technology, the BfR concurs with the EFSA's assessment regarding the ADI, but considers it necessary to derive an ARfD as well. In the BfR's view, this should currently also be set at 0.05 milligrams per kilogram of body weight.

The BfR considers TFA to be toxic to reproduction. The relevant national and international scientific institutions and authorities are currently dealing intensively and interdisciplinary with this substance.

## **Health-based guidance values for TFA**

At the request of the European Commission, EFSA is currently reviewing the health-based guidance values (HBGV) for TFA. EFSA is conducting this review in collaboration with the Member States and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which is responsible for the classification of the chemical properties of TFA (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/topics/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>). The BfR will update its assessment if new findings emerge.

## About the BfR

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