

## **Assessment of the results of the National Residue Monitoring Plan 2010 and the Import Monitoring Plan 2010**

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The National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP) is a programme for monitoring foodstuffs of animal origin such as meat, milk or honey for residues of harmful substances. As part of the Import Monitoring Plan (IMP), animal products from third-party countries are tested for residues of harmful substances.

For residues of veterinary drugs and environmental contaminants such as heavy metals and dioxins, in many cases maximum levels have been defined which must not be exceeded in animal products. Within the framework of the National Residue Monitoring Plan and the Import Monitoring Plan, the aim of food control is to check that these maximum levels are complied with, to discover any illegal use of banned or non-approved substances and to determine the source for increased residues or contaminants. Sampling is target-oriented.

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has presented the results of the 55,883 samples tested by the official control laboratories of the states as part of the NRMP 2010 as well as the 1,486 samples of the Import Monitoring Plan. In 507 cases (0.91 %) and 17 cases respectively, residue and contaminants in excess of the permitted levels were found.

The Federal Office for Risk Assessment (BfR) has assessed the results of the investigations in terms of their health effects. It comes to the conclusion that one-off or occasional consumption of foods with the detected residues does not pose any health risk to consumers. In the opinion of the BfR, the total number of positive findings continues to be low. For example, illegal levels of antibiotic residues were found only in 0.1 % of cases.

In a majority of cases where the limit value was exceeded in the liver and kidneys of two-year old and older cattle and pigs, the residues found were the heavy metals lead, mercury and cadmium. This risk-orientated sampling carried out within the framework of the National Residue Monitoring Plan 2010 was part of the BfR pilot study on the question whether regional differences exist in the heavy metal contamination of internal organs.

The full version of the BfR opinion in German is available on <http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/bewertung-der-ergebnisse-des-nationalen-rueckstandskontrollplanes-2010-und-des-einfuhrueberwachungsplanes-2010.pdf>