

DOI 10.17590/20191125-080227

Results of the National Residue Control Plan and Import Control Plan for 2015

BfR-Opinion No 10/2019, 5 April 2019

The National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) is a programme for monitoring food of animal origin, e.g. meat, milk or honey for residues and contaminants. Animal products from non-EU states are examined on the basis of the Import Control Plan (ICP).

For residues of pharmacologically active substances and for environmental contaminants such as heavy metals or dioxins, maximum limits or maximum levels are often set for food of animal origin, which must not be exceeded. The objective of food monitoring under the NRCP and the ICP is to verify compliance with those limits, to detect the illegal use of prohibited or unauthorised substances and to identify the causes of increased levels of residues and contaminants. The samples collected under the NRCP are individual measurements that were not obtained by representative sampling.

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has presented the results of the 58,353 samples examined by the competent authorities of the German federal states ("Laender") in the context of the NRCP 2015 as well as 1,218 samples of the 2015 ICP.

Out of 58,353 NRCP samples, 431 samples (0.74%) contained substances that exceeded maximum residue limits or maximum levels or were undesirable in food of animal origin. The ratio is slightly below the 2014 level (0.85%). Under the ICP, the authorities identified three samples (0.26%) in which residues and contaminants exceeded the maximum residue limits or maximum levels or contained prohibited substances. In 2014, it was just under 1%.

Important result of the NRCP and the ICP: The evaluation of these results by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) showed that there was no direct health risk for consumers with single or occasional consumption of food of animal origin. In order to estimate intake levels, the BfR used the data of National Nutrition Study II (NVS II), among others. These data were supplemented by data from a survey on the frequency of consumption of rarely eaten food.

The full version of this BfR Opinion is available in German on <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/bewertungsbericht-zu-den-ergebnissen-des-nationalen-rueckstandskontrollplans-und-des-einfuhueberwachungsplans-2015.pdf>