

*Comment of FACEnetwork on the proposed limits of PAH in smoked cheese*

Unfortunately we have little data on this topic. The data that we have from our members vary a lot, ranging from <0.5 mcg/kg of cheese to 1.5 mcg/kg for B(a)P and from <0.5 mcg/kg to 10 mcg/kg for PAH4.

The values found depend on the composition and size of the cheese, the type of cheese, the way of smoking (warm or cold) and the sampling method (with or without rind).

As there is not yet an official limit for PAH in cheese(products) in most countries, the results of analysis are often compared with the existing limit for smoked meat and fish. The vast majority of the smoked cheeses complies with these limits. Values found in literature also point in this direction.

We have the impression that the proposed limits for cheese are at a relatively low level compared with the proposed limits for fish and meat. It seems that in some situations it might be difficult to comply with these, in particular for artisan producers.

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