



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

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**Revised EC Regulation on
Ochratoxin A (OTA) and other
contaminants**

1. The Executive Director presents his compliments and wishes to inform Members that the European Commission has now published Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs.

2. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (L364) of 20 December 2006 and will enter into force on 1 March 2007. In the case of roasted coffee and soluble coffee, there are no changes to the maximum limits for OTA content of 5 ppb and 10 ppb respectively¹, and there are no limits on green coffee (see paragraphs 22 to 24 on page 7 and items 2.2.4, 2.2.5 and 2.2.11 on page 16 of the regulation). A copy of the Regulation can be downloaded from the following link:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_364/l_36420061220en00050024.pdf

3. It should be noted that green coffee remains under review; and there is provision for annual reporting on the occurrence of OTA and prevention measures in Article 9 (2). Attention is also drawn to Article 3 (2) which prohibits mixing foodstuffs complying with the maximum levels set out in the Annex with foodstuffs exceeding these maximum limits. This does not affect green coffee for which there are no maximum limits, but would mean that it would not be permissible to mix equal volumes of, for example, roasted coffee containing levels of 7 ppb of OTA with roasted coffee containing 2 ppb to achieve a 4.5 ppb average.

¹ See ED-1940/05 containing details of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 123/2005 setting maximum limits for OTA, amending Regulation (EC) No. 466/2001.