Mattilsynet

Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler

Risk management of PFAS in Norway

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How to manage the risk?

When it comes to contaminants in food

- Regulation
  - Setting of maximum limits (ML)
  - Control plans - official controls to verify compliance of MLs
- Consumer advices when,
  - lack of maximum limits, or
  - existing limits are not sufficient for minimizing the risk from food intake, or
  - regulating is not suitable (homegrown vegetables, sport fishing)
- Monitoring
  - Gather occurrence data as basis for setting maximum limits
  - Strengthen the basis for exposure assessments

Regulations

At initial phase

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- Foods
  - Maximum limits for 4 PFAS'es in meat, eggs, fish and other seafood
    - perfluorooctanoic acid, PFOA
    - perfluorooctane sulfonate, PFOS
    - perfluorononanoic acid, PFNA
    - perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, PFHxS
- Drinking water
  - Maximum limit of 100 ng/L for the sum of 20 PFAS from januar 12. 2026 (Drinking Water Directive)
  - Drinking water fascilities are required to do what they can to achieve low levels of PFAS .
- Restrictions on use of PFOA and precursors, and a proposal of restriction on all PFAS (The Norwegian Environment Agency)

Drinking water – national maximum limit?

- The Norwegian Institute of Public Health has assessed whether the maximum limit of 100 ng/L for the sum of 20 PFAS will be safe from a health point of view
- A limit value for a total of 4 PFAS [...] in the order of 2 ng/L (0.002 µg/L) based on UB (upper bound) will be compatible with safe exposure in terms of health
- On the basis of this assessment, NFSA is now considering whether a national maximal limit is feasible and the timing of such a measure.

Consumer advices

Seafood

- Advice against eating fish and drinking water from fresh water near airports
- Advice against eating fish from Tyrifjorden (PFAS pollution from an old paper factory)

Consumer advices

When we don’t know

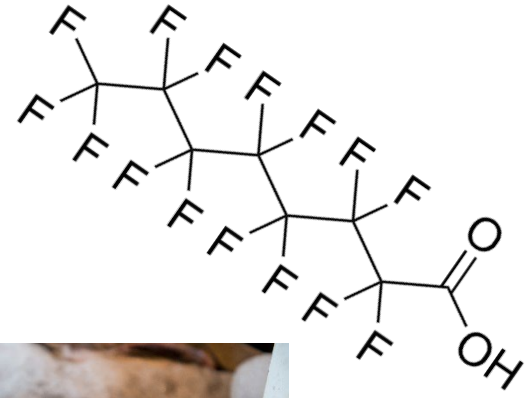
- At the moment no advices regarding PFAS in e.g. vegetables in Norway
- We get questions on
  - Vegetable farming, water with high content of PFAS
  - cattle or sheep grassing in/near polluted areas
  - private wells
- Lack of data in Norway, looking to other countries
- Communicate what we know, but also what we do not know

Dialogue with the industry

- Controls are important, but so are guidance
- Measures to avoid or reduce contamination
  - Food production in polluted areas
  - Drinking water fascilities near airports – filtration/cleaning technologies
  - Food contact materials
- Exhange of knowledge
  - To identify and avoid sources of contamination

Monitoring

Risk managing based on knowledge



- Monitoring of PFAS in seafood since 2007
- Analysis projects on food contact materials in 2015 and 2018
- Analysis of PFAS in fish feed since 2017
- A need for occurence data on more PFAS'es and foods
  - Other PFAS, such as Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA), Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) and many more…
  - Other foods, such as fruit and vegetables, milk and milk product
  - More sensitive methods
- Monitoring of PFAS in the environment

Thank you for your attention!