

## **Advice 06-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the risk of melamine in milk for infant formulas**

Due to adulteration of milk and milk powder with melamine, more than 51,900 Chinese infants and young children were hospitalized and at least six infants died. Melamine is a chemical that is used in the manufacture of plastics, coatings, flame retardants, resins and adhesives. Melamine, which is not carcinogenic, genotoxic or teratogenic, can however, cause the formation of kidney stones or even kidney failure after prolonged exposure.

Based on the available data it is possible to fix an action limit (maximum concentration). Nevertheless, it should be noted that many lacunas remain, particularly regarding the toxicological properties of melamine (and analogues) e.g. regarding long-term exposure of children. The Scientific Committee wishes furthermore to emphasize that concentrations of potential contaminants in infant formulas should always be as low as reasonably achievable. The consumer is advised to keep to recognized brands of infant formulas, as their composition must comply with regulatory standards.

Additionally it is noted that melamine contamination can persist on for a long time on the market given the incident concerns products with a prolonged shelf life (milk powder, etc.). The industry is recommended to include melamine and possible fraud with non-protein nitrogen as a potential hazard in their self-control system.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".