

'May contain traces of ---'

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Activities within food allergy

- Develop methods for the analysis of allergens in food
- Participate in the efforts to reduce amounts of allergens in food intended for the allergic patients
 - National control programmes
 - Spot checks
 - The Norwegian National Register for Serious Allergic Reactions to Food (Dr Martinus Løvik, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health)
 - Analytical support to manufacturers



'May contain traces of milk'

- 2001: National control programme
- 2002: National control programme
- 2003: Control of a portfolio (6 products) without milk





Year	No	Detected
2003	59	1
2004	69	
2005	279	2
June 2006	184	
Total	591	3

Table 1 Milk protein measured as casein by rocket immunoelectrophoresis, quantification limit 2.5 mg/kg

'May contain traces of milk'

- 2001: National control programme
- 2002: National control programme
- 2003: Control of a portfolio (6 products) without milk
- 2005: Anaphylactic reaction to one product reported
- 2006: All portfolio products labelled 'may contain'
- July 2006: Quatification limit from 2.5 to 1 mg/kg



'May contain traces of milk'

Product group	No	< 1	1 - 2,5	2,5 - 10
Sausage A	14	7	7	
Sausage B	15	8	7	
Sausage C	13	6	5	2
Sausage D	4	2	2	
Sausage E	2	1	1	
Liver paste	6	4	2	

Egaas and Moen 2006, Poster presentation AOACE-meeting Cyprus



'May contain traces of hazel nut'

Corylin (mg/kg)

Product group	No.	<0,2	0,2 - 1	1 -10	>10
Breakfast cereals	34	21	10	3	-
Cookies	32	24	6	2	-
Chocolates	34	11	2	14	7

Fæste et al., J Immunol Methods (2006) 314:114-122



'May contain traces of peanut'

Conarachin (mg/kg)

Product group	No.	<0,3	0,3 - 1	1 -10	>10
Breakfast cereals	16	15	1	-	-
Cookies	15	15	-	-	-
Chocolates	32	18	1	6	7

Egaas and Sit 2006, Poster presentation AOACE-meeting Cyprus



Preliminary recommendations

The lowest observed adverse-effect level (LOAEL)

LOAEL natural milk, egg, hazelnut, peanut 1-2 mg.

- amount of allergenic protein present
- food intake

Moneret-Vautrin and Kanny, *Current Opinion in Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 2004, 4:215-219



Comments

- The label ‘may contain traces of’ should only be used when, even after careful cleaning, HACCP has been applied and has confirmed that there is indeed a possibility that traces of an allergen may be present.
- Threshold determinations of the amount of allergen that may elicit allergic responses in a percentage of the allergic population are urgently needed.
- Analysis of allergens in the food used in clinical trials should be performed using a recommended method.

