



BFRB-GUD-004	Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses
Revision: 1.0	Maple Syrup Toxic Metal Sampling
Approved: 09/11/2025	Wisc. Stat. § 97.12(1) & ATCP 87.26(1)(a)

Subject: Actionable toxic metal levels in maple syrup.

Scope: This document is intended to provide guidance when actionable toxic metal levels have been identified through sampling of Maple Syrup conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses (BFRB). Sampling is conducted for product monitoring, surveillance, federal grant surveillance, data collection or an investigation due to a previous positive sampling test result, recall, consumer complaint, or in conjunction with a foodborne illness or injury investigation. Current actionable limits in this document are focused on lead only.

This document applies to Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses staff and its industry partners.

Definitions

Pb – Lead

Hg – Mercury

As – Arsenic

ppb – Parts per billion

Cd – Cadmium

Guidance

ATCP 87.26(1)(a), Equipment and utensils used at a licensed food processing plant in processing maple syrup or shelf-stable concentrated maple sap using methods other than concentration, or in processing non-shelf-stable concentrated maple sap, maple sap, and maple-derived water, shall be constructed, used, and maintained in accordance with s. [ATCP 70.12](#). Equipment and utensils used solely for concentration of maple sap including tanks, bulk containers, filters, hydrometers, thermometers, and skimmers, shall be of sanitary design and construction. Lead or lead-alloy soldering may not be used in the construction or repair of food-contact surfaces. Equipment and utensils used solely for concentration of maple sap shall be readily accessible for cleaning and inspection and shall be constructed so that items can be easily cleaned. Equipment and utensils used solely for concentration of maple sap shall be kept clean and in good repair.

Product selection:

- Wisconsin maple syrup sampled by BFRB staff and tested at the Bureau of Laboratory Services. Sample collection may or may not be known by the manufacturer of the product.

Product testing:

- Tests conducted on Pure Maple Syrup with limit of detection levels:
 - Pb: 10.5 ppb
 - As: 11.6 ppb
 - Cd: 1.58 ppb
 - Hg: 6.24 ppb

Actionable limits of pure maple syrup:

- **Pb:**
 - < 10.5 ppb: No action taken
 - 10.5 ppb to 249.9 ppb: Telephone / email contact made with the facility to discuss collection methods, storage methods, evaporation methods, equipment design or receiving procedures.
 - 250 ppb to 499.9 ppb: On-site contact with the facility to discuss and observe collection methods, storage methods, evaporation methods, equipment design or receiving procedures. Additional follow up inspections and sampling of product may be conducted.
 - 500 ppb: Product with 500ppb or great will be considered adulterated. Product deemed adulterated will be subject to a holding order and recall.
- **No Actionable limits have been set for As, Cd, or Hg.**

References

- ATPC 70
- ATPC 87

Document History

The most recent changes to this controlled document are listed at the top of the table:

Revision	Author	Change Description	Approval Date
1.0	Jacob Multerer	New document	09/11/2025

Approval

☐ Assigned To	Title	Due Date	Status	Related Content	Outcome
 Sprecker, Troy S	Please approve Maple Syrup Toxic Metal Sampling DRAFT	9/6/2025	Completed	Maple Syrup Toxic Metal Sampling DRAFT	Approved
 Brock, Adam D.	Please approve Maple Syrup Toxic Metal Sampling DRAFT	9/6/2025	Completed	Maple Syrup Toxic Metal Sampling DRAFT	Approved