

# LEAD (Pb) LEVELS IN BABY FOODS – CURRENT REGULATIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

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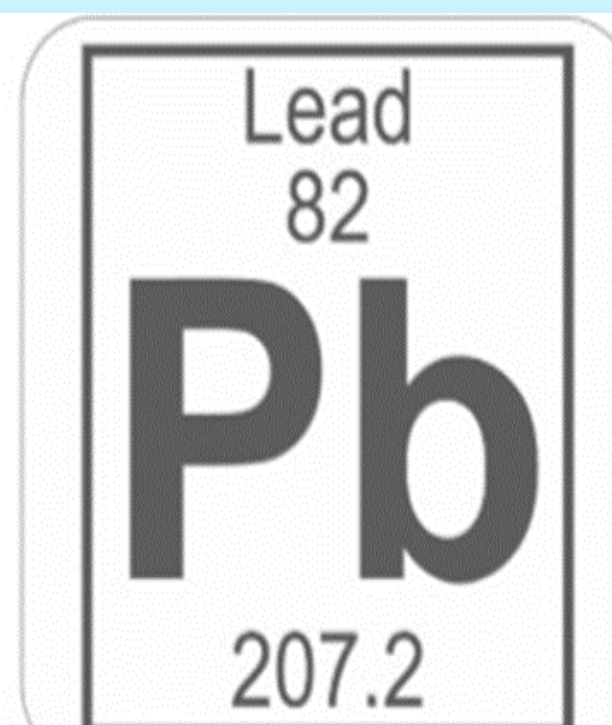
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## Lead (Pb)



- Is a harmful toxic metal, found as a contaminant in food, air, consumer products, etc.
- There is growing evidence that there may be no safe blood Pb level (BLL).

## Pb TOXICITY

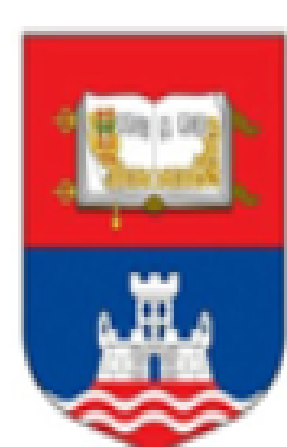
- All systems and organs can be affected with nervous system as the most sensitive (lower IQ).
- Babies and young children represent a highly sensitive population to Pb toxic effects, having in mind that they are in a growing period.
- In children, absorption of Pb in the gastrointestinal tract is extremely higher than in adults.

## CURRENT REGULATION

- Current regulation in the European Union, as well as in Serbia, have set the maximum Pb level in infant formula at 20 ppb. The World Health Organization provides 10 ppb as a provisional guideline.
- U.S.A. Academy of Pediatrics and the Environmental Defense Fund, as well as Consumer Reports have all advocated a 1 ppb limit in foods and beverages consumed by infants and children.

## FUTURE TRENDS – “CLOSE TO ZERO”

- In April 2021, the Food and Drug Administration released an action plan called "Close to Zero" that aims to reduce exposure to Pb and other toxic metals in babies and young children's foods to the lowest possible levels.
- In conclusion, future perspectives for Pb levels in baby foods globally, should be action to decline Pb levels as low as possible.



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