

LISTERIA 2026

THE NEW CONTROL STANDARD FOR READY-TO-EAT FOODS



From July 2026, Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 strengthens the microbiological criteria applicable to ready-to-eat (RTE) foods

WHAT ACTUALLY CHANGES

PREVIOUS

1. Ensure **100 CFU/g** of *Listeria monocytogenes* **throughout shelf life**.
2. **Absence in 25 g** of ready-to-eat food prior to **leaving the factory**.

NEW

- Increased stringency in point 2.
Requirement to ensure ***Listeria monocytogenes* absence in 25 g throughout the entire shelf life**.



The control **no longer ends at the plant** → it must be maintained **throughout the entire shelf life** until consumption



RISK arises during processing, not at retail level

Critical control points within the plant:

- Equipment and surfaces
- Slicing and handling operations
- Cross-contamination
- Sensitive ingredients or matrices



Listeria challenges:

- Capable of growth under refrigeration.
- Tolerant to adverse conditions, including high salt levels.
- Ability to form persistent biofilms.

The strategy: integrate CONTROL from the formulation stage

IMA-AC

A natural, fermentation-derived solution designed to support you in:



- Controlling *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Enhancing microbiological safety
- Extending commercial shelf life
- Preserving sensory characteristics
- Facilitating process integration

- ✓ Heat stable
- ✓ Water soluble
- ✓ Available in powder and liquid formats
- ✓ Clean label
- ✓ Natural (no E-numbers)

Increased requirements, greater CONTROL



- HACCP review
- Microbiological control across the entire value chain
- Enhanced sampling and validation
- Active and documented shelf-life management

The COST of failing to anticipate:



- Regulatory non-compliance
- Product withdrawals and recalls
- Reputational damage
- Loss of customer and consumer confidence

More than a solution, your TECHNICAL partner from start to finish

At **3A BIOTECH**, we support you at every stage of your process



- Shelf-life studies
- Challenge testing
- On-site technical visits
- Process implementation
- Technical and regulatory consultancy

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