

**Question for written answer E-003912/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE)

Subject: Application of Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 to frozen raw shrimp intended for cooking

Regulation (EU) 2024/2895¹ amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005² on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs, which has been applicable since 1 July 2026, extends the food safety rules on *Listeria monocytogenes* to the entire shelf life of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods in Category 1.2. RTE foods are defined as foods intended for direct human consumption without cooking or other processing sufficient to eliminate microorganisms of concern.

Since July 2026, European buyers of frozen raw shrimp – products explicitly labelled as requiring complete cooking prior to consumption – have been invoking Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 to reject shipments. Quantitative enumeration by buyers' own accredited laboratories consistently returns *Listeria monocytogenes* counts well below 100 colony-forming units per gram (cfu/g). No national competent authority has issued a formal legal basis for these rejections.

Therefore:

1. Does the Commission confirm that frozen raw shrimp explicitly labelled as requiring cooking before consumption falls outside the RTE definition and therefore outside the scope of Regulation (EU) 2024/2895?
2. Does the Commission confirm that the detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* below 100 cfu/g does not, in any case, constitute non-compliance with food safety rules, therefore justifying commercial rejection?
3. Does the Commission intend to issue guidance to competent authorities and operators to prevent this regulation from being misapplied to non-RTE products?

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¹ Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 of 20 November 2024 amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards *Listeria monocytogenes* (OJ L, 2024/2895, 21.11.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2895/oj>).

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs (OJ L 338, 22.12.2005, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/2073/oj>).