

MAXIMUM HEAVY METAL CONTENT FOR FERTILISER PRODUCTS

The following table outlines maximum limits for cadmium, mercury, arsenic, and lead in the main fertiliser products of member companies of the New Zealand Fertiliser Association.

Metal Limits for Macro-Nutrient Fertilisers (N,P,K,S,Mg,Ca Products)

		Maximum
Cadmium	Cd	280 mg / kg Phosphorus
Mercury	Hg	10 mg / kg Product
Arsenic	As	75 mg / kg Product
Lead	Pb	100 mg / kg Product

Trace levels of heavy metals occur in the earth's crust and therefore can be found at low levels in phosphate rock and other raw ingredients of fertilisers. The natural concentrations in the raw material will fluctuate and this may be reflected in the end product. Therefore the above table represents industry agreed guidelines for the maximum levels, and typical levels are expected to be much lower in the fertiliser products which provide the major plant nutrients.

To protect the interests of our consumers, member companies regularly test fertiliser materials for heavy metal content.

Fact sheets and information on fertiliser products and their responsible use and application are available on the web sites of Fertiliser Association and our member companies.

www.fertiliser.org.nz ; www.ballance.co.nz ; www.ravensdown.co.nz