

Report finds acrylamide in Italian chips

-- By [Simon Marks](#)

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FOOD — REPORT FINDS ACRYLAMIDE IN ITALIAN CHIPS: Newly published lab test results conducted by a consumer group in Italy have uncovered numerous cases of chips being sold in the country with levels of the chemical acrylamide above the recommended EU levels. EFSA has [determined](#) that acrylamide in food “potentially increases the risk of developing cancer for consumers.” The so-called “benchmark level” set out in EU law for potato chips is 750 micrograms per kilogram. But *il Salvagente*, an Italian consumer magazine and member of the Brussels-based NGO Safe Food Advocacy Europe, found that chips being sold at Auchan, Lidl and other locations were far above this. Seven out of 18 tested samples were above 800 µg/kg with the highest presence (1,600 µg/kg) being found in chips sold by Auchan.

— Call for maximum legal limit: The discovery of such high levels of acrylamide in a popular food item being sold at supermarkets comes just three months before a recently adopted regulation governing the presence of acrylamide in food comes into force. That bill attracted widespread criticism from consumer groups after the food industry successfully lobbied to keep the benchmark levels from becoming legally binding. “Without a maximum legal limit, products containing acrylamide above the thresholds set in the Regulation are exempt from serious consequences and their products cannot be withdrawn from the market,” Safe Food Advocacy Europe said in a [statement](#).