



Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU
United Kingdom
gov.uk/mhra

30 January 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI 24/009

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2024 where you requested the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request if yourselves or any other agency has tested vaccine products for glyphosate contamination and if you have confirmed if aluminium does or does not contribute to the development of autism, Alzheimer's and dementia symptoms.

Please note that the Freedom of Information Act only applies to information held by the public body to which the request is made. Therefore, the MHRA cannot disclose information concerning the actions of other agencies as we do not hold this information. Please see our response to the information requested below.

1. Glyphosate

The MHRA has not tested vaccines for glyphosate contamination. All vaccines manufacturers must operate to Good Manufacturing Practices and their production facilities are regularly inspected by regulatory authorities to ensure that contaminants do not enter the manufacturing process.

2. Aluminium

Please note that our response below is in relation to aluminium present in some medicines and vaccines products. Exposure to aluminium from unspecified or other environmental sources is not in the remit of the MHRA and as such we do not hold this information however you may be interested in general information about aluminium available on the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aluminium-properties-and-incident-management/aluminium-general-information> .

Information about the use, safety, and ingredients of medicines is included in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for healthcare professionals and the Patient Information Leaflet, PIL) for patients. A link to the MHRA portal where you can search for the SmPCs and PILs for authorised products is provided here: <https://product.mhra.gov.uk>. Medicines

that contain aluminium include some antacids that contain aluminium hydroxide as an active ingredient. As stated in the warnings section of the SPC for one brand of antacid containing aluminium hydroxide, Maalox Plus Suspension, '*In patients with renal impairment, plasma levels of both aluminium and magnesium increase. In these patients, a long-term exposure to high doses of aluminium and magnesium salts may lead to encephalopathy, dementia, microcytic anemia or worsen dialysis-induced osteomalacia.*' The PIL for this product warns patients not to take Maalox Plus if they have kidney disease/kidney failure.

The amount of aluminium present in some vaccines is very small. Information on the safety of aluminium in vaccines can be found on the University of Oxford's Vaccine Knowledge website at the following link <https://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/vk/vaccine-ingredients#aluminium>. This website provides independent, evidence-based information about vaccines and infectious diseases.

The most robust evidence for the safety of vaccines comes from large epidemiological studies. There has been no indication from epidemiological data that any serious adverse effects are related to aluminium exposure via vaccines.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of this response; and can be addressed to this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,

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The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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