

TESTING RESULTS

SUMMARY

Prop 65 was a ballot initiative passed in 1986 that requires businesses to inform Californians about exposures to certain chemicals. According to Prop 65, these chemicals are known to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm. Currently, California has identified approximately 900 chemicals for its Prop 65 list.

Seven synthetic meat products were tested at a laboratory located in California to see if these products would require a warning label under Prop 65. The laboratory is an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited testing lab whose practice includes Prop 65 compliance testing for the food industry.

Products tested were both fresh (Beyond, Impossible) and frozen. The fake meat items chosen tested positive for acrylamide and heavy metals, with some products testing above Prop 65 limits. Two rounds of testing gave positive results for acrylamide.

We used [California's Safe Harbor List](#) to calculate whether a product appears to be in violation of Prop 65 for one serving of the product. Based on our test results and calculations, the acrylamide levels appear to be actionable under Prop 65.

VARIATIONS IN RESULTS

Each sample was sent to the lab twice using the same preparation and handling methods (on our end) each time. The tests came back with slightly different results. This could be due to a multitude of reasons. For example, the amount of product tested by the lab, the temperature that an item was cooked at—or cooked from (i.e. frozen or room temperature), or the duration of cooking time can alter the results.

TESTING RESULTS

ALL Prop 65 violation levels (3rd column) is based on the larger of the two test results.

ACRYLAMIDE

Prop 65 NSRL level (cancer): .2 µg/day

Under Prop 65, California has a No Significant Risk Level (NSRL) of 0.2 micrograms per day for acrylamide. NSRL is a level the state sets for carcinogens.

All of the fake meat products tested had levels acrylamide in at least one test that exceeded the NSRL. For reference, an 8-ounce cup of Starbucks coffee had 9 ppb of acrylamide—well below the fake meat samples above—and that translated to 2 micrograms of exposure, or ten times above the NSRL. Starbucks lost long-running litigation under Prop 65.

This level of acrylamide is legally actionable. For reference, an 8-ounce cup of Starbucks coffee had 9 ppb of acrylamide—well below the fake meat samples above—and that translated to 2 micrograms, or ten times above the NSRL. Starbucks lost litigation under Prop 65.

FAKE MEAT PRODUCT	TESTING ROUND 1 (PARTS PER BILLION)	TESTING ROUND 2 (PARTS PER BILLION)	VIOLATES PROP 65 PER SERVING?
Beyond Meat Burger	No results	29 ppb	Yes: 3.2 µg/serving
Beyond Meat Sausages	No results	23 ppb	Yes: 2.3 µg/serving
MorningStar Farms Bacon	40 ppb	33 ppb	Yes: .64 µg/serving
Impossible Burger	23 ppb	No results	Yes: 2.599 µg/serving
Gardein Sliced Italian Saus'age	63 ppb	71 ppb	Yes: 3.976 µg/serving
Boca All American Burger	68 ppb	40 ppb	Yes: 4.828 µg/serving

REFERENCE: SAMPLE SIZES

1. Beyond Burger: 113 grams per serving (1 4-oz. patty)
2. Beyond Meat Sausage: 100 grams (3.5 ounces per 1 link, 4 links to a box)
3. MorningStar Farms bacon: 16 grams (about 9 servings per container)
4. Impossible Burger: 113 grams (1 4-oz. patty)
5. Gardein: 56 grams (7 slices to a serving, 4.5 servings to a box)
6. Boca All American burger: 71 grams (1 patty per serving, 4 patties to a box)