

# Nitrosamines In Excipients

## Understanding risk & how we manage it

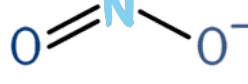
Traces of nitrites in certain excipients can, in the presence of amines and under certain conditions, form nitrosamines (carcinogens). How does Lactalis Ingredients Pharma take proactive measures to ensure the safety of its pharmaceutical-grade lactose?

### Nitrosamines formation cycle

#### Key Chemical Differences

#### Nitrosamines

a reaction product of nitrites and amines under acidic pH conditions, heat, or humidity



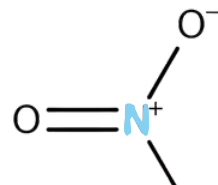
#### Nitrites

are nitrosating agents (that may be present in natural excipients)



#### Nitrates

Nitrates can also be considered a secondary concern due to their potential conversion into nitrites through reduction.



#### Where Do Nitrosamines in Excipients Come From?

- **Potential presence of nitrites** in ingredients of natural origin/raw materials
- **Water / agricultural practices / processing conditions** : heating, packaging, solvent recycling
- **Variability** depending on chemistry, batch, and supplier; process water is generally of little concern

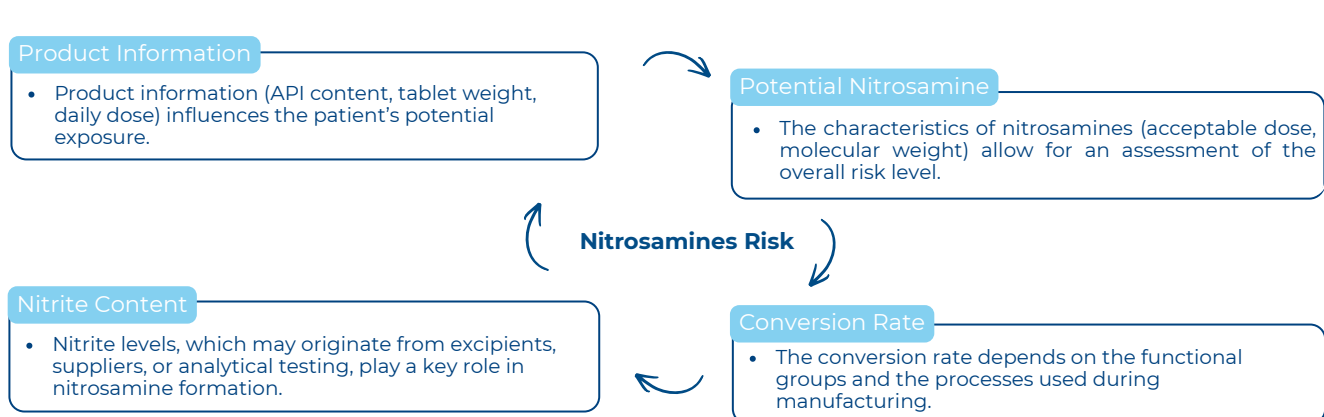
**Appropriate conditions** (elevated temperatures, acidic conditions, liquid phase / moisture)



#### How is estimated the potential for nitrosamine formation?

**Vulnerable Amine:** Secondary amine salts are typically more reactive, tertiary amines are less reactive

The risk of nitrosamines depends on several factors related to the product and its manufacturing process.



### Critical points & regulations



**N-nitrosamines are a class of organic compounds, some of which are recognized as potentially carcinogenic**

In July 2018, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) announced **the recall of several valsartan-containing products due to contamination with NDMA (N-nitrosodimethylamine)**. Following this incident, regulatory authorities **required pharmaceutical manufacturers to evaluate the risk of the presence or formation of N-nitrosamines** in medicinal products already on the market.

#### EMA

Oversees risk management in Europe and implements action plans

#### FDA

Sets thresholds and requires manufacturers to conduct inspections

#### ICH M7 (R2)

Global harmonization of controls

#### Impact: Enhanced analysis & supply chain transparency

### Detection – Recent Methods



Method	Key advantage	Sensibility
<b>Automated Total Nitrosamines Analyser (ATNA)</b>	Rapid global screening of total nitrosamines (result in minutes)	+
<b>High-resolution LC-MS/MS + Quantitative Structure-Retention Relationship (QSRR)</b>	Accuracy & Prediction	++
<b>Ion Chromatography + UV Spectroscopy (IC-UV)</b>	Higher sensitivity, lower LOD for nitrite quantification	+++

### Lactalis Ingredients Pharma Commitments

#### Selection of raw materials with low nitrite levels.

**Process optimization:** we do not use nitrite and nitrate salts, nr any other nitrosating agents.

**Supplier transparency:** as a supplier of pharmaceutical excipient we have completed the **Standardized IPEC (2023) questionnaire**



The **risk** of nitrosamines in excipients is **generally low**, but **not zero** if vulnerable amines are present and certain conditions are met.

#### Collaboration between drug manufacturer and excipient supplier is key



#### Integrated supply chain



Thanks to Lactalis position as the **1st** world's largest cheese producer We have direct access to a significant internal supply of whey.

#### Safety at the heart of your formulations

#### Low nitrite

At Lactalis Ingredients Pharma, we offer a range of lactose monohydrate with a **guaranteed nitrite content ≤ 0.1 ppm**, to support the pharmaceutical industry in addressing the growing challenges associated with **nitrosamines**.

**LOW NITRITE ≤ 0.1 ppm**

#### Certifications for the Retiers facility

ISO 9001



EXCI Pact



**Nitrite testing** is performed on **every batch** produced, and the **detailed value** are included on **each CoA**.

### Conclusion



The **potential presence of N-nitrosamines remains a major concern for the pharmaceutical industry** and requires a comprehensive risk assessment at the finished drug product level. Although the contribution from excipients is generally low, it must be taken into account when vulnerable amines and nitrites are present. As a committed supplier, **Lactalis Ingredients Pharma offers pharmaceutical-grade lactose with controlled nitrite levels (≤ 0.1 ppm), backed by systematic analytical testing and high transparency. This approach enables us to effectively support manufacturers in their risk assessments. The control of nitrosamines relies on close and continuous collaboration throughout the supply chain.**

#### Others Sources

Let's talk about the safety of your formulations  
Contact our experts | Request a sample  
[lactalisingredientspharma@fr.lactalis.com](mailto:lactalisingredientspharma@fr.lactalis.com)

- Nitrosamine Contamination in Pharmaceutical Excipients: Risks & Prevention – 2025 – Lactalis Ingredients Pharma
- Nitrosamines – 2023 – Mérieux NutriSciences
- Nitrosamines : alerte de l'EFSA sur des aliments à risques – 2023 – Eurofins France

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