Approval of sodium hypochlorite (bleach) as biocidal product

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Regulation (EU) 2025/524 granting a Union authorisation for the biocidal product family Sodium hypochlorite Liquid disinfectant biocidal product family

What is changing and why?

The EU has authorised the use of “Sodium hypochlorite Liquid disinfectants” (a type of bleach) across the EU for use as a general disinfectant [Product type 02) and as a disinfectant in food and feed areas, limited to professional use only (Product type 04). These products are not intended to be used by the general public as their use could contaminate foods with residues of chlorate. Foods may not contain residues of chlorate that exceed the maximum residue levels (MRLs) set for chlorate.

Actions

Whether chlorate comes from pesticide use, water, biocidal products, or other sources, the residues found in food must not exceed the chlorate MRLs set for pesticide residues (see EU Pesticide database – chlorate MRLs). Even indirect exposure to chlorate, such as from cleaning equipment or washing water, can lead to MRLs being exceeded and products being rejected. Product usage instructions must be followed (including proper rinsing), chlorate levels must be monitored, and staff must be trained to apply effective risk mitigation measures.

Timeline

The authorisation of these products is valid in all EU Member States from **13 April 2025** to 31 March 2035.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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