Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals, restrictions, and non-approvals (2025)

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2025 non-renewals, withdrawals, restrictions, and non-approvals of pesticides for use in the EU

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/910 of 20 May 2025 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance flufenacet, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and amending Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) No 540/2011 and (EU) 2015/408

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2027 of 9 October 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the approval period of the active substance penthiopyrad

Update

This report summarises recent decisions by the European Union (EU) not to renew, or to withdraw, existing approvals for certain pesticide active substances. While these decisions primarily affect EU producers, they are generally followed by legislation to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) to 0.01 mg/kg or the limit of determination (LOD – the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). These decisions therefore provide an early indication of upcoming MRL changes, and the likely need to look for alternative solutions on crops for export to the EU.

What is changing?

The EU systematically reviews the status of all pesticide active substances that are approved for use within the European Union. Recent non-renewals and withdrawals of approvals are summarised in Table 1. To check the expiry or review dates of other pesticide active substances, see the EU Pesticides Database.

Why?

Flufenacet: the European Food Safety Authority has identified concerns about endocrine-disrupting properties associated with the use of this substance (EFSA 2024).

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Penthiopyrad: the manufacturer no longer supports the application for renewal of this substance, so no review will take place and the extension period has been withdrawn.

Timeline

Expiry dates for the substances affected are listed in Table 1. After these dates, the pesticides can no longer be used in the EU.

The European Commission is expected to follow up with proposals to reduce or remove the MRLs for these substances, which will affect their use on crops for export to the EU. Any changes to MRLs are notified to the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO SPS) Committee, and details will be provided on the AGRINFO website.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Decisions not to renew, or to withdraw, EU approvals for the use of certain pesticide active substances mainly affect their use within the EU. However, following a non-renewal or withdrawal of approval, in most cases the EU starts the process of lowering or removing the associated MRLs. These are typically set at 0.01 mg/kg or the LOD. In many cases this means they can no longer be used on crops for export to the EU, and action is needed.

Recommended Actions

Export sectors affected should start looking for alternative crop protection solutions to flufenacet and penthiopyrad, or to assess possible adaptations of GAP. Exporting countries could also consider requesting EU import tolerances (for guidelines see European Commission 2021). See Pesticide residue import tolerance MRLs explained.

Background

For previous decisions see:

- Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals, and restrictions (2024)
- Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals, and restrictions (2023).

Pesticide active substances are approved for up to a maximum period of 15 years, and manufacturers may apply for reapproval of a substance for a period up to this limit. The EU systematically reviews all active substances.

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Substances can be:

- not reapproved: if there is insufficient data to permit reapproval, or because the manufacturer does not seek reapproval
- withdrawn: where specific consumer health or environmental issues are identified, sometimes before the normal expiry date
- restricted: where data supports renewal, but only under new specific conditions of use.

Where an authorisation for an active substance is withdrawn or expires due to withdrawal of approval or non-renewal, the European Commission will prepare a draft measure to delete the relevant existing MRLs. In practice, the Commission starts this procedure once all existing authorisations for that active substance have been revoked. MRLs are set either to a default value of 0.01 mg/kg, or to the lowest limit technically possible using current analytical methods. MRLs based on the Codex MRLs (CXLs) are not deleted where there is no risk to EU consumers or no global environmental concern. Changes to MRLs that impact trade are always notified to the WTO SPS Committee.

The precise timing of changes to MRLs resulting from the withdrawal or non-renewal of active substances is difficult to predict. In its review of pesticide policy, the Commission committed to "enhance communication efforts on the impacts of the PPP Regulation on MRLs as well as the timing of the various procedures to make the EU system more predictable for non-EU countries, including for the cut-off criteria" (European Commission 2020).

Import tolerances can be requested in anticipation of potential changes to MRLs (see Overview table 2009–2024), but applicants must demonstrate the existence of relevant good agricultural practices (GAP) in the country of origin, and the safety of the proposed MRLs. Guidelines are available on the requirements and process for establishing MRLs and import tolerances (European Commission 2021).

Resources

EFSA (2024) Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance flufenacet. EFSA Journal, 22: e8997.

Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/910 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance flufenacet

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Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2027 as regards the approval period of the active substance penthiopyrad

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals, and restrictions (2025)

Active substance	Date of expiry	Legal basis (Regulation)	Status
Flufenacet	10 Jun 2025	2025/910	Non-renewal: concerns about endocrine-disruption properties in humans and non-target organisms
Penthiopyrad	31 Oct 2025	2025/2027	Expiry of approval: manufacturer no longer supports application for renewal

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Source: based on Regulations 2025/910; 2025/2027

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