Maximum residue level for difenoconazole

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EU to amend MRLs for difenoconazole on various products

Draft Commission Regulation (EU) amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for difenoconazole in or on certain products

Draft Annex II

Update

The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a new draft proposal to amend the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for difenoconazole (G/SPS/N/EU/924). This includes lowering the MRLs to the limit of determination (LOD) for certain products where information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was not sufficient to rule out risks for consumers. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

For citrus fruits, tree nuts, mangoes, papayas, dry peas, and soyabeans, where the MRLs under discussion are not considered to be a concern for consumer safety, import tolerances are proposed.

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Impacted products

Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine kernels, pistachios, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, cherries (sweet), plums, cranberries, azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, currants, dewberries, elderberries, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, carambolas, dates, figs, jambuls/jambolans, litchis/lychees, star apples/cainitos, kaki/Japanese persimmons, mangoes, papayas, breadfruits, cherimoyas, durians, granate apples/pomegranates, pineapples, soursops/guanabanas, guavas, passionfruits/maracujas, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, yams, arrowroots, garlic, onions, shallots, aubergines/eggplants, sweetcorn, broccoli, cauliflowers, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies, Roman rocket/rucola, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives, celery leaves, chervil, parsley, basil and edible flowers, beans and peas, lentils, asparagus, cardoons, celeries, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes, lentils, lupins/lupini beans, linseeds, mustard seeds, castor beans, hemp seeds, peanuts/groundnuts, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, soyabeans, cotton seeds, borage seeds, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, buckwheat and other pseudocereals, common millet/proso millet, maize/corn, sorghum, rye, wheat, oats, teas, valerian, ginseng, anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn, vanilla, tamarind, capers, cinnamon, cloves, mace, saffron, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, sugar canes, beetroots, carrots, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, other roots/tubers, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries

What is changing?

The EU proposes to amend the MRLs for difenoconazole as summarised in Table 1.

For citrus fruits, tree nuts, mangoes, papayas, dry peas, and soyabeans, where proposed MRLs are not considered to be a concern for consumer safety (EFSA 2025), import tolerances are proposed. EFSA also recommended lowering the MRLs for potatoes, sweet potatoes, aubergines, chards, cardoons, and celeries, and proposed safe MRLs for certain other crops based on good agricultural practices (GAPs) (EFSA 2024).

For many of the MRLs set above the LOD in Table 1, the EU has indicated that a further review of the MRLs will be required within two years, due to limitations in available data.

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Why?

In 2024, EFSA published a reasoned opinion on the MRLs for difenoconazole. It also proposed a new residue definition for "difenoconazole – alcohol (CGA205375), expressed as difenoconazole" applicable to animal products, based on the results of studies on difenoconazole residues in livestock (EFSA 2024).

In October 2024, the EU raised the MRL for difenoconazole on rye and wheat from 0.1 to 0.3 mg/kg following an application to modify the MRLs on these crops, based on EFSA's (2023) conclusion that the modifications were acceptable for consumer safety.

A minor correction to Regulation 2024/2612 was published in February 2025.

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be published in October 2026, and will apply 6 months after publication.

Recommended Actions

The opportunity to submit comments on this proposal closed on 3 May 2026.

Background

MRLs are set in accordance with the rules set out in Regulation 396/2005. For information on current MRLs for other substances, please consult the EU Pesticide Residues database.

Resources

EFSA (2023) Modification of the existing maximum residue levels for difenoconazole in wheat and rye. EFSA Journal, 21(8): e08207.

EFSA (2024) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for difenoconazole according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No396/2005. EFSA Journal, 22(8): e8987.

EFSA (2025) Setting of import tolerances for difenoconazole in various crops. EFSA Journal, 23:(6) e9472.

Regulation (EU) 2024/2612 as regards maximum residue levels for chitosan, clopyralid, difenoconazole, fat distillation residues, flonicamid, hydrolysed proteins, and lavandulyl

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senecioate in or on certain products, and Corrigendum.

Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for difenoconazole in or on certain products

Draft Annex II

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Proposed maximum residue levels for difenoconazole

Food category	Products	Difenoconazole (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.05*	0.03
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars	0.8	0.4
	Loquats/Japanese medlars	0.8	0.6
Stone fruits	Cherries (sweet)	0.3	0.4
	Plums	0.5	0.4
Berries and small fruits	Cranberries	0.1	0.6
	Azaroles/Mediterranean medlars	0.8	**0.01***
	Currants	0.2	**0.01***
	Dewberries, elderberries, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries	0.1	**0.01***
Miscellaneous fruit	American persimmons/Virginia kaki, carambolas, dates, figs, jambuls/jambolans,kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, star apples/ cainitos	0.1	**0.01***
	Kaki/Japanese persimmons	0.8	**0.01***
	Mangoes	0.1	0.2
	Papayas	0.2	0.3
	Breadfruits, cherimoyas, durians, granate apples/ pomegranates, pineapples, soursops/guanabanas	0.1	**0.01***
	Guavas	0.1	0.15
	Passionfruits/maracujas	0.1	0.05
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes, sweet potatoes	0.1	0.07
	Cassava roots/manioc, yams, arrowroots	0.1	**0.01***
	Beetroots, carrots, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, other roots/tubers	0.4	0.5
	Celeriac/turnip rooted celeries	2	0.5
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots	0.5	0.2
Fruiting vegetables	Aubergines/eggplants	0.6	0.5
	Sweet corn	0.05*	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli	1	0.7
	Cauliflowers	0.2	0.15
	Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai	2	3
	Kales	2	1.5
	Kohlrabies	0.05*	0.02

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Difenoconazole (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Leaf vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers	Roman rocket/rucola, spinaches	3	4
	Purslanes	3	2
	Chards/beet leaves	4	3
	Grape leaves and similar species	0.05*	0.01*
	Watercresses	0.5	**0.01***
	Witloofs/Belgian endives	4	0.08
	Celery leaves, chervil, parsley	10	15
	Basil and edible flowers	10	4
Legume vegetables	Beans and peas (with pods)	1	0.7
	Beans and peas (without pods)	1	0.6
	Lentils	0.05*	0.01*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus	0.05*	0.03
	Cardoons, celeries	7	5
	Bamboo shoots, palm hearts	0.05*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses, and lichens		0.05*	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotic organisms		0.05*	0.01*
Pulses	Beans	0.06	0.05
	Lentils, lupins/lupini beans	0.06	0.04
Oilseeds	Linseeds, mustard seeds	0.2	0.5
	Castor beans, hemp seeds, peanuts/groundnuts, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds	0.05*	0.01*
	Soyabeans	0.1	0.15
	Cotton seeds	0.05*	0.4
	Borage seeds	0.05*	0.5
Oil fruits	Oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok	0.05*	0.01*
Cereals	Buckwheat and other pseudocereals, common millet/proso millet, maize/corn, sorghum	0.05*	0.01*
	Oats	0.05*	0.02
Teas		0.05*	20
Herbal infusions	Valerian, ginseng	20	4
	Any parts of the plant except flowers, leaves, herbs, roots	20	**0.05***

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Difenoconazole (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn, vanilla, tamarind	0.3	0.15
	Capers, cinnamon, cloves, mace, saffron	0.3	**0.05***
	Liquorice, turmeric/curcuma	3	1.5
Sugar plants	Sugar canes	0.05*	0.01*
Products of animal origin	Muscle of pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, and horses	0.05	0.08
	Fat of pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, and horses	0.05	0.2
	Muscle of other farmed terrestrial animals	0.1	0.08
	Fat of other farmed terrestrial animals	0.1	0.2
	Liver, kidney, and edible offals of pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and other farmed terrestrial animals	0.2	1.5
	Poultry muscle, fat, liver, and edible offals	0.1	**0.01***
	Milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse)	0.005*	0.02
	Bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail)	0.05*	0.03
	Amphibians and reptiles, terrestrial invertebrates, and wild terrestrial vertebrates	0.05*	0.01*

* Limit of determination. MRLs reduced to the limit of determination (LOD) are **highlighted** as the ones most likely to cause trade disruptions. Operators should pay attention to all changes to MRLs as adaptions to good agricultural practices may be required.

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