Maximum residue levels for benomyl

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EU sets MRLs for benomyl to limit of determination on all products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1546 of 8 July 2026 amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

Update

The European Union (EU) has set maximum residue levels (MRLs) for benomyl on all products at the limit of determination (LOD), the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.

Impacted products

All products

What is changing?

Benomyl was previously included within the definition of carbendazim. The MRLs for benomyl were therefore the same as those for carbendazim. The EU has now set MRLs for benomyl at the default level of 0.01 mg/kg for all products (except for teas, coffee, herbal infusions, cocoa, carobs, hops, spices, and honey, for which an MRL of 0.05 mg/kg applies). The changes in comparison to the previous carbendazim MRLs are set out in Table 1.

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Why?

In 2021, the European Food Safety Authority suggested establishing separate MRLs for benomyl and carbendazim (EFSA 2021). Benomyl is not approved as an active substance for plant protection products in the EU. Therefore no EU toxicological reference values for benomyl are available, making it challenging to assess the safety of MRLs for this substance. As benomyl lacks authorisation for use in the EU, and no import tolerances or Codex maximum residue limits (CXLs) exist, the European Commission decided that the default MRL of 0.01 mg/kg should be applied (or the LOD of 0.05 mg/kg where 0.01 mg/kg cannot be achieved analytically).

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **29 January 2027**.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of all products should seek alternatives to the use of benomyl.

Background

In the EU, benomyl was previously included within the definition of carbendazim ("sum of benomyl and carbendazim expressed as carbendazim"). Products that complied with carbendazim MRLs were therefore considered to be compliant regarding benomyl. In November 2024, the European Commission informed the WTO SPS Committee that it intended to set separate MRLs for benomyl at the default level of 0.01 mg/kg on all products, or 0.05 mg/kg where testing to 0.01 mg/kg is not technically possible (G/SPS/N/EU/696).

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 (2021) Reasoned opinion on the toxicological properties and maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the benzimidazole substances carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl. EFSA Journal, 19(7): 6773.

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Sources

Regulation (EU) 2026/1546 as regards maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels for benomyl

Food category	Products	Benomyl (mg/kg)	
		Old carbendazim MRL (included benomyl)[1]	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges	0.2	0.01*
	Lemons, limes, mandarins	0.7	0.01*
	Other citrus fruits	0.1*	0.01*
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, other tree nuts	0.1*	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, other pome fruits	0.2	0.01*
	Loquats/Japanese medlars	2	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	0.2	0.01*
	Cherries (sweet), plums	0.5	0.01*
	Other stone fruits	0.1*	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes	0.3	0.01*
	Wine grapes	0.5	0.01*
	Strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), other cane fruits, blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, other berries	0.1*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruit	Dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, other fruits (edible peel), kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, other small fruits (inedible peel), avocados, bananas	0.1*	0.01*
	Mangoes	0.5	0.01*
	Papayas	0.2	0.01*
	Granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/ guanabanas, other large fruits (inedible peel)	0.1*	0.01*
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, other tropical roots/tubers, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, other roots/ tubers	0.1*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions, other bulb vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	0.3	0.01*
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers, other Solanaceae, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, other curcurbits (edible peel), melons, pumpkins, watermelons, other curcurbits (inedible peel), sweetcorn, other fruiting vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
	Aubergine/eggplants	0.5	0.01*
	Okra/lady's fingers	2	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, other flowering brassica, head cabbages, other head brassica, Chinese cabbages/ pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies, other leafy brassica	0.1*	0.01*
	Brussels sprouts	0.5	0.01*
Leaf vegetables	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/ rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, other lettuces, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, other spinaches, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/ Belgian endives	0.1*	0.01*
Herbs and edible flowers	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon, other herbs and edible flowers	0.1*	0.01*

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Benomyl (mg/kg)	
		Old carbendazim MRL (included benomyl)[1]	New MRL
Legume vegetables	Beans (with pods), peas (with pods)	0.2	0.01*
	Beans (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils, other legume vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, other stem vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Cultivated fungi	1	0.01*
	Wild fungi, mosses and lichens	0.1*	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes	Algae and prokaryotes	0.1*	0.01*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, peas, lupins/lupini beans, other pulses	0.1*	0.01*
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanut/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, cotton seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, other oilseeds	0.1*	0.01*
	Soyabeans	0.2	0.01*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, other oil fruits	0.1*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, oat	2	0.01*
	Rye, wheat	0.1	0.01*
Teas		0.1*	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.1*	0.05*
Herbal infusions	Chamomile, hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, other flower infusions strawberry, rooibos, mate/maté, other leaves/herb infusions, valerian, ginseng, other root infusions	0.1*	0.05*
Cocoa beans		0.1*	0.05*
Carobs/Saint John's breads		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		0.1*	0.05*
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, other seed spices, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, other fruit spices, cinnamon, other bark spices, liquorice, ginger, turmeric/curcuma, horseradish, other root/rhizome spices, cloves, capers, other bud spices, saffron, other flower pistil spices, mace, other aril spices	0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots, other sugar plants	0.1*	0.01*
Products of animal origin:			
Swine/cattle/sheep/goat/horse/poultry/other farmed terrestrial animals	Muscle, fat, liver, kidney, edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	0.05*	0.01*
Milk	Cattle, sheep, goat, horse, other milks	0.05*	0.01*
Bird eggs	Chicken, duck, geese, quail, other bird eggs	0.05*	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products		1	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles		0.05*	0.01*
Terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*

1. Formally defined by the EU as "sum of benomyl and carbendazim expressed as carbendazim".
* Limit of determination.

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Source: based on Regulation 2026/1546

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