

Maximum residue levels for benthialicarb

Published by AGRINFO on 03 Apr 2025

EU proposes to set benthialicarb MRLs to LOD for all products, with impacts on grapes and tomatoes

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for benfluralin, benthialicarb and penflufen in or on certain products

[Draft](#) Annex (PLAN-2024-1306 rev3)

Update

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intends to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for benthialicarb on grapes and tomatoes to the limit of determination (LOD) ([G/SPS/N/EU/843](#)). (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.) For all other foods, MRLs are already set at the LOD, but some of these will also be lowered to reflect improvements in analytical methods.

Impacted products

All products, grapes, tomatoes

What is changing?

The European Commission proposes to set the MRLs for benthialicarb to the LOD for all products. This will lower the MRLs on **grapes** and **tomatoes** from 0.3 to 0.01 mg/kg. For all other foods, the current MRLs are already set at the LOD. However, it is proposed to lower the LODs on tree nuts, potatoes, algae, oilseeds, oil fruits, and cereals from 0.02 to 0.01 mg/kg.

Why?

Benthiavalicarb is no longer approved for use in the EU (see [Benthiavalicarb: approval not renewed by EU](#)). The EU therefore proposes to set all benthiavalicarb MRLs at the product-specific LODs. The LODs are the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods, and are updated by the European Commission to reflect the latest analytical methods on the advice of the EU Reference Laboratories for Residues of Pesticides.

Timeline

The new MRLs will apply from approximately May 2026 – the precise date will be known once the Regulation is published.

Recommended Actions

Competent authorities of non-EU countries that are WTO members may comment on the EU proposal by emailing the [EU SPS Enquiry Point](#) until **24 May 2025** ([G/SPS/N/EU/843](#)).

Suppliers to the EU market of table and wine grapes and tomatoes must find alternative solutions to benthiavalicarb for use on these products by 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](#).

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for benfluralin, benthiavalicarb and penflufen in or on certain products

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