Maximum residue levels for bifenazate

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EU reduces MRLs for bifenazate to limit of determination on all products, with impacts on certain fruits, nuts, vegetables, oilseeds, and animal products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/891 of 22 March 2024 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 bifenazate in or on certain products

Update

The European Commission has reduced the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for bifenazate to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods) on all products. This will have potential impacts on suppliers of certain fruits, nuts, vegetables, oilseeds, and animal products for which MRLs currently exist. Existing LODs (with the exception of LODs for animal products) will also be reduced.

Impacted products

grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats, Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, grapes, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, azaroles, Mediterranean medlars, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, elderberries, tomatoes, aubergines, eggplants, sweet peppers, bell peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, basil, edible flowers, beans, peas, cotton seeds, animal products, hops

What is changing?

The Commission has amended the MRLs for bifenazate as set out in Table 1.

Regarding products not listed in Table 1:

- for fruit and vegetables except herbs and edible flowers (not including basil) – LODs are reduced to 0.02 mg/kg
- for pulses, oilseeds, oil fruits, and cereals – LODs are reduced to 0.01 mg/kg
- for teas, coffee, infusions, cocoa, and spices – LODs are reduced to 0.05 mg/kg.

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Why?

In May 2022, the EU limited the use of bifenazate to non-edible crops kept in permanent greenhouses because EFSA's (2021) review of bifenazate concluded that there was insufficient data to exclude consumer safety concerns regarding use on edible crops. The Commission has therefore lowered the MRLs for this substance to the LOD in all edible crops.

Timeline

The new MRLs will apply from **14 October 2024**.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of affected fruits, nuts, vegetables, oilseeds, and animal products should review current use of bifenazate and evaluate possible alternative solutions in anticipation of MRL changes.

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 (2021) Updated peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance bifenazate. EFSA Journal, 19(8): 6818.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/891

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Maximum residue levels for bifenazate

Food category	Products	Bifenazate[1] (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins	0.9	0.01*
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnut/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.2	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	0.7	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, cherries, peaches, plums	2	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, azaroles/Mediterranean medlars	0.7	0.01*
	Strawberries	3	0.01*
	Blackberries, dewberries, raspberries	7	0.01*
	Elderberries	0.4	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes, aubergines/eggplants	0.5	0.01*
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	3	0.01*
	Cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons	0.5	0.01*
Leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers	Basil and edible flowers	40	0.02*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with pods), peas (with pods)	7	0.01*
	Beans (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils	0.4	0.01*
Pulses	Beans	0.3	0.01*
Oilseeds	Cotton seeds	0.3	0.01*
Hops		20	0.05*
Products of animal origin	Fat from swine/ bovine/ sheep/ goat/ equine/ other farmed terrestrial animals	0.05	0.02*

* Limit of determination.
1 Sum of bifenazate plus bifenazate-diazene expressed as bifenazate.

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