Maximum residue levels for carbendazim

Published by AGRINFO on 30 Nov 2023; Revised 30 Jul 2025

European Commission proposal to reduce carbendazim MRLs on oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, and papayas on hold

Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

Update

The European Commission has presented a draft proposal to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for carbendazim to the limit of determination (LOD) on oranges, grapefruits, mangoes, and papayas. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). Publication was originally foreseen for 2025. However, the Regulation is currently on hold pending ongoing discussions within the Commission (European Commission 2025b).

This proposal follows the European Parliament's rejection of a previous Commission proposal to maintain the MRLs on lemons, limes, mandarins, and okra. The Parliament requested the Commission to reduce the MRLs for carbendazim on all products to the LOD. See Maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, cyproconazole, and spirodiclofen.

The new proposal is limited to those products for which acute health risks have been identified. Discussion of other MRLs that do not have implications for consumer health will be held at a later stage (European Commission 2025a).

Impacted products

Oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, papayas

What is changing?

In February 2025, the European Commission presented a draft proposal to lower the MRLs for carbendazim to 0.01 mg/kg on oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, and papayas due to acute health risks (see Table 1).

Why?

Carbendazim is no longer authorised in the European Union (EU) as there has been no application for reapproval.

EFSA (2021) suggested reducing the MRLs to the LOD, except on certain products that are considered safe. It proposed increasing the MRLs for carbendazim on lemons, limes, and mandarins, aligning with good agricultural practices (GAP) observed in certain non-EU countries, and a lower MRL deemed safe for carbendazim on okra/ lady's fingers, also derived from the GAP in non-EU countries.

This new proposal is limited to those products for which acute health risks have been identified. Discussion of other MRLs identified by EFSA (2021) that do not have implications for consumer health will be held at a later stage.

Timeline

Due to the acute health risk, the Commission proposes that the new MRLs should apply 3 months after the new Regulation is published, rather than the usual 6 months (European Commission 2025a). Publication was originally foreseen for 2025. However, the Regulation is currently on hold pending ongoing discussions within the Commission (European Commission 2025b).

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of **oranges**, **grapefruit**, **mangoes**, and **papayas** should prepare for the carbendazim MRLs to be reduced to 0.01 mg/kg, taking into account the potentially short period for transition (see Timeline).

Background

In September 2024, the European Parliament rejected a Commission Regulation that proposed to reduce the MRLs for carbendazim to the LOD on all products except lemons, limes, mandarins, and okra (see Maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, cyproconazole, and spirodiclofen). The Parliament requested the Commission to withdraw its draft Regulation and present a new one, setting the MRLs for carbendazim on all products to the LOD.

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(8): 6773.

European Commission (2025a) Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues. 17–18 February 2025. Summary Report.

European Commission (2025b) Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues. 23–24 June 2025. Agenda.

Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

Table & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels for carbendazim[1]

Food category	Products	Carbendazim (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruit	Grapefruits, oranges	0.2	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Mangoes	0.5	0.01*
	Papayas	0.2	0.01*

[1] Sum of benomyl and carbendazim expressed as carbendazim.
* Limit of determination.

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Source: based on Draft Commission Regulation

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