

Maximum residue levels for carbendazim

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EU proposes to reduce MRLs for carbendazim to the limit of determination except for lemons, limes, mandarins, and okra

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation 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

[Annex II](#)

[Annex III](#)

Update

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of its intention to set the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for carbendazim to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). This could have an impact on suppliers of a wide range of products including fruit, vegetables, soyabeans, cereals, and honey. There are exceptions for lemons, limes, mandarins, and okra as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) considers that existing import tolerances are safe for these particular products ([G/SPS/N/EU/696](#)).

Impacted products

Citrus fruits, grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, tree nuts, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/ cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, pome fruits, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars, stone fruits, apricots, peaches, cherries, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries, garlic, onions, shallots, tomatoes, sweet peppers/ bell peppers, aubergines/ eggplants, okra, cucurbits, brassica vegetables, broccoli, cauliflowers, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages, kales, Brussels sprouts, beans (with pods), peas (with pods), beans (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils, cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens, oilseeds, linseeds, peanuts/ 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, soyabeans, barley, oats, rye, wheat, commodities from swine, cattle, sheep, goat, horse, poultry and other farmed terrestrial mammals, milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse), bird eggs, honey, amphibians, and reptiles, teas, coffees, herbal infusions, cocoa, carobs

What is changing?

The European Commission proposes to reduce the MRLs for carbendazim as summarised in Table 1. MRLs should be raised for lemons, limes, and mandarins, but lowered for okra.

In the EU, carbendazim is currently defined as “sum of benomyl and carbendazim expressed as carbendazim”. The Commission now proposes that the new MRLs will just apply to carbendazim. Separate MRLs are being established for benomyl.

Why?

Carbendazim is no longer authorised in the EU as there was no application for reapproval. Therefore MRLs should be set to the LOD, except on certain products considered safe.

[EFSA \(2021\)](#) recommends raising the MRLs for carbendazim on lemons, limes, and mandarins, based on good agricultural practices (GAP) from non-EU countries, that are considered safe.

EFSA also proposes to set lower MRLs for carbendazim on okra/ lady's fingers, also based on GAP from certain non-EU countries.

Timeline

Expected date of publication: July 2024.

The new MRLs are expected to apply from **mid-2025**.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers of fruit, vegetables, soyabeans, cereals, and honey in particular should review their current use of carbendazim and look for possible alternative solutions in anticipation of these MRL changes.

Private and public laboratories should adjust their analysis of carbendazim to ensure that analytical results reflect levels of both carbendazim and benomyl separately.

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) [Reasoned opinion on the toxicological properties and maximum residue levels \(MRLs\) for the benzimidazole substances carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl](#). EFSA Journal, 19(8): 6773.

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

[Annex II](#)

[Annex III](#)

Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for carbendazim			
Food category	Products	Carbendazim (mg/kg) ¹	
		Old MRL	New MRL ²
Citrus fruit	Grapefruits, oranges	0.2	0.01*
	Lemons, limes, mandarins	0.7	0.9
Tree nuts		0.1*	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars	0.2	0.01*
	Loquats/Japanese medlars	2	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	0.2	0.01*
	Cherries, plums	0.5	0.01*
Berries and other small fruits	Table grapes	0.3	0.01*
	Wine grapes	0.5	0.01*
	Strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries	0.1*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki, jambuls, kiwi, lychees, passionfruits, prickly pears, star apples, American persimmons, avocados, bananas, pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops	0.1*	0.01*
	Mangoes	0.5	0.01*
	Papayas	0.2	0.01*
		0.1*	0.01*
Root and tuber vegetables		0.1*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots	0.1*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	0.3	0.01*
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.1*	0.01*
	Aubergines/eggplants	0.5	0.01*
	Okra	2	1.5
	Cucurbits	0.1*	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages, kales	0.1*	0.01*
	Brussels sprouts	0.5	0.01*
Leaf vegetables		0.1*	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with pods), peas (with pods)	0.2	0.01*
	Beans (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils	0.1*	0.01*
Stem vegetables		0.1*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses, and lichens	Cultivated fungi ³	1	0.01*
	Wild fungi, mosses, and lichens	0.1*	0.01*
Pulses		0.1*	0.01*
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanuts/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	0.1*	0.01*
	Soyabeans	0.2	0.01*
Oil fruits		0.1*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, oat	2	0.01*
	Rye, wheat	0.1	0.01*
Teas, coffee, herbal infusions, cocoa, and carobs		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		0.1*	0.05*
Spices		0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants		0.1*	0.01*
Products of animal origin	Commodities from swine, bovine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, and other farmed terrestrial mammals	0.05	0.01*
	Milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse)	0.05*	0.01*
	Bird eggs ³	0.05*	0.01*
	Honey	1	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles, terrestrial invertebrate animals, wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*

¹ Sum of benomyl and carbendazim expressed as carbendazim.
² Carbendazim only.
³ Limit of determination.

Source: based on [PLAN/2022/2853](#)

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