

Maximum residue levels for carbofuran

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EU discusses lowering the MRL for carbofuran in cotton seeds to the LOD

Draft Commission Regulation (EU) 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 carbofuran, imazalil, mandipropamid, propaquizafop, quizalofop-P-ethyl and quizalofop-P-tefuryl in or on certain products

Draft Annex V (PLAN/2025/2832)

Update

The European Union (EU) is discussing lowering the maximum residue level (MRL) for carbofuran in cotton seeds to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods).

Impacted products

Cotton seeds

What is changing?

The EU is discussing lowering the MRL for carbofuran in cotton seeds from 0.1 mg/kg to the LOD (0.02 mg/kg).

Why?

Carbofuran is not approved in the EU and there are no import tolerances requested for cotton seeds.

Timeline

The MRL under discussion is expected to apply from **mid-2027**.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of cotton seeds should start to explore alternative chemical and non-chemical solutions to the use of carbofuran.

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](#).

The EU takes into account Codex MRLs (CXLs) established by Codex Alimentarius. In November 2024, the Codex Alimentarius Commission revoked some CXLs for the active substance carbofuran ([EFSA 2025](#)).

Resources

EFSA (2025) [Assessment of fall-back MRLs for revoked CXLs previously implemented in the EU legislation](#). EFSA Journal, 23(3): e9299

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation (EU) as regards maximum residue levels for carbofuran, imazalil, mandipropamid, propaquizafop, quizalofop-P-ethyl and quizalofop-P-tefuryl in or on certain products

[Draft](#) Annex V

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