

Maximum residue levels for chlormequat

Published by AGRINFO on 13 Nov 2025; Revised 02 Feb 2026

EU raises chlormequat MRL on oats, and proposes MRL reductions on animal products and fungi

Commission Regulation (EU) [2026/140](#) of 22 January 2026 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for acequinocyl, chlormequat, metalaxyl-M, pyraclostrobin, sulfoxaflor and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products

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 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, chlormequat, metribuzin, metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK), terbuthylazine and triclopyr in or on certain products.

Draft Annex IIIA

Update

The European Union (EU) has raised the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for chlormequat on oats. The European Commission has also informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee ([G/SPS/N/EU/899](#)) that it intends to reduce the chlormequat MRLs on animal products and cultivated fungi.

Impacted products

Fungi, mosses, lichens, swine (all), cattle (all), sheep (liver), sheep (fat), sheep (edible offals), goat (all), horse (all), poultry (all), other farmed terrestrial animals (all), milk (all), birds' eggs (domestic fowl)

What is changing?

The EU has raised the MRL for chlormequat on oats from 15 to 30 mg/kg (Regulation [2026/140](#)). The EU also proposes to reduce the MRLs for chlormequat on certain products as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The MRL for chlormequat on oats has been raised following a request to modify the previous MRL, which was considered safe on the basis of a risk assessment by the European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA 2025](#)).

When a temporary MRL is set, it is reviewed periodically to take account of new monitoring data submitted by food operators. If there is no data, or if the data shows that residues are no longer detectable, then the MRL is lowered to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). In the case of chlormequat on oyster mushrooms, where the MRL was set at 6 mg/kg, the latest data submitted showed that the residues detected were under 2 mg/kg (but still higher than the LOD of 0.01 mg/kg). So in this case, it is proposed to reduce the MRL from 6 down to 2 mg/kg, but not as low as the LOD. The same applies to the case of cultivated fungi, where it is proposed to reduce the MRL from 0.9 to 0.6 mg/kg.

Chlormequat may be used on oilseeds or cereals used as animal feed, with potential carry-over of chlormequat residues in food products of animal origin. [EFSA \(2024\)](#) has concluded that this carry-over could be accommodated by lowering the MRLs for most animal products except for sheep kidney, and for poultry muscle and fat.

Timeline

The new MRL on oats applies from **11 February 2026**.

The Regulation on fungi and animal products is expected to be published in July 2026, and new MRLs are expected to apply from late 2026 or early 2027.

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](#).

For further information on the EU's process and principles for setting MRLs, see [Regulation of pesticide residues in the EU – Questions and Answers](#).

Resources

EFSA (2024) [Assessment of fall-back MRLs for revoked CXLs previously implemented in the EU legislation and review of the JMPR evaluation of the toxicological data related to pyrasulfotole, pyraziflumid, spiropidion and tetraniliprole](#). EFSA Journal, 22(5): e8693.

EFSA (2025) [Modification of the existing maximum residue level for chlormequat in oat](#). EFSA Journal, 23(4): e9385.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) [2026/140](#) as regards maximum residue levels for acequinocyl, chlormequat, metalaxyl-M, pyraclostrobin, sulfoxaflor and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, chlormequat, metribuzin, metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK), terbuthylazine and triclopyr in or on certain products.

[Draft](#) Annex IIIA

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Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes under discussion for chlormequat maximum residue levels ^[1]			
Food category	Products	Chlormequat (mg/kg)	
		Existing MRL	Proposed MRL
Fungi, mosses, lichens	Cultivated fungi (other than oyster mushrooms)	0.9	0.6
	Oyster mushrooms	6	2
Products of animal origin			
Swine	Muscle	0.3	0.015
	Fat	0.15	0.01*
	Liver	1.5	0.05
	Kidney	1.5	0.15
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1.5	0.15
Cattle	Muscle	0.3	0.15
	Fat	0.15	0.05
	Liver	1.5	0.4
	Kidney	1.5	1
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1.5	1
Sheep	Fat	0.15	0.09
	Liver	1.5	0.7
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1.5	2
Goat	Muscle	0.3	0.4
	Fat	0.15	0.09
	Liver	1.5	0.7
	Kidney	1.5	2
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1.5	2
<i>Continued...</i>			

Table 1 Continued			
Food category	Products	Chlormequat (mg/kg)	
		Existing MRL	Proposed MRL
Products of animal origin			
Horse	Muscle	0.3	0.15
	Fat	0.15	0.05
	Liver	1.5	0.4
	Kidney	1.5	1
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1.5	1
Poultry	Muscle	0.05	0.015
	Fat	0.05	0.01*
	Liver	0.15	0.015
	Kidney	0.15	0.015
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	0.15	0.015
Other farmed terrestrial animals	Muscle	0.3	0.15
	Fat	0.15	0.05
	Liver	1.5	0.4
	Kidney	1.5	1
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1.5	1
Milk	Cattle	0.5	0.15
	Sheep/goat	0.5	0.3
	Horse	0.5	0.15
Bird eggs	Chicken/duck/geese/quail	0.15	0.02
1. For products not listed here, no changes are proposed. * Limit of determination (LOD).			
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Source: [PLAN/2025/1086 -rev3](#); [Draft](#) Regulation recitals (11,12) for cultivated fungi

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