Maximum residue levels for chlormequat

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EU discusses reduction of chlormequat MRLs on animal 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

Update

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee (G/SPS/N/EU/899) that it intends to reduce chlormequat maximum residue levels (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), bird eggs (domestic fowl)

What is changing?

The European Union (EU) proposes to reduce the MRLs for chlormequat on certain products as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

Food operators have submitted recent monitoring data showing that chlormequat residues still occur in oyster mushrooms and cultivated fungi at levels higher than the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). As the majority of residues in the new monitoring data are lower than the current MRL, the MRL can be lowered somewhat, although not all the way to the LOD. For example, for oyster mushrooms, new data show that the majority of residues are under 2 mg/kg. This means that the MRL can be lowered from the previous level (6 mg/kg) to 2 mg/kg, but not to the LOD of 0.01 mg/kg.

Chlormequat may be used on oilseeds or cereals used as feed, with potential carry-over of chlormequat residues in products of animal origin. Following an evaluation, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA 2024) has concluded that this carry-over could be accommodated by lowering MRLs for most animal products except for sheep kidney, and for poultry muscle and fat.

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be published in July 2026. It is expected that new MRLs will apply from late 2026 or early 2027.

Recommended Actions

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the WTO can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point until **1 February 2026**.

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 MRL, 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(4): art. e8693.

Sources

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

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Table & Figures

Table 1
Proposed changes 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
Cereals	Oat	15	30
	Wheat	7	6
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
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	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

Continued …

Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Chlormequat (mg/kg)	
		Existing MRL	Existing MRL
Milk	Cattle, sheep, goat, horse	0.5	0.3
Bird eggs	Chicken/duck/goose/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, and Draft Regulation, Recital (11) and (12) for cultivated fungi