Maximum residue levels for cypermethrins

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EU proposes to revise MRLs for cypermethrins

Draft Commission Regulation 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 alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin in or on certain products

Draft Annex II

Update

The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a revised draft proposal reviewing the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for cypermethrins (G/SPS/N/EU/702/Add.1). It is proposing to lower the MRLs for these substances in certain products because their use on those products is no longer authorised in the EU. The EU also proposes to set separate new specific MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin (see Maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin).

This includes reducing the MRLs to the limit of determination (LOD) on several products. (The LOD is 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, in particular fruits (pears, certain berries, litchis, mangoes, papayas), sweet peppers, cucumbers, courgettes, lettuces, spinaches, beans, and peas.

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Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, apples, quinces, pears, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars, apricots, peaches, cherries, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries, dates, figs, carambolas, kaki/ Japanese persimmons, jambuls/ jambolans, kiwi fruits, passionfruits, prickly pears, star apples/ cainitos, American persimmons, avocados, bananas, granate apples/ pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, soursops, table olives, kumquats, litchis, mangoes, papayas, potatoes, cassava roots/ manioc, yams, arrowroots, sweet potatoes, beetroots, carrots, celeriac, parsnips, radishes, salsifies, swedes, turnips, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsley roots, garlic, shallots, onions, spring onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers/ bell peppers, aubergines/ eggplants, cucumbers, courgettes, gherkins, watermelons, pumpkins, melons, broccoli, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/ pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, lamb's lettuces, lettuces, escaroles, Roman rocket/ rucola, red mustards, cresses, landcresses, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards, watercresses, grape leaves, witloofs/Belgian endives, chervil, chives, parsley, sage, basil and edible flowers, celery leaves, rosemary, thyme, laurel/ bay leaves, tarragon, beans (with pods), peas (with pods), beans (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils, asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, globe artichokes, leeks, cultivated fungi, mosses and lichens, wild fungi, algae and prokaryote organisms, linseeds, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/ canola seeds, soyabeans, pumpkin seeds, castor beans, cotton seeds, safflower seeds, olives for oil production, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, barley, oats, rice, rye, wheat, sorghum, valerian, ginseng, anise/ aniseed, black caraway/ black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, capers, saffron, mace, sugar beet roots, chicory roots, muscle from swine and cattle, fat from swine, liver, kidney and edible offals from swine, cattle, sheep, goats and horses, fat from cattle, muscle from sheep, goats, horses, muscle from poultry, commodities from other farmed terrestrial mammals, milk (cattle), bird eggs, honey

What is changing?

The EU proposes to amend the MRLs for cypermethrins (sum of isomers) on certain products, as summarised in Table 1. In addition, the EU is discussing setting specific MRLs for alpha-cypermethrins: see Maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin.

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Why?

Following a review of the existing MRLs for cypermethrins ("cypermethrin including other mixtures of constituent isomers: sum of isomers"), the European Food Safety Authority recommended maintaining or increasing these MRLs according to available good agricultural practices (GAPs), or based on Codex Alimentarius MRLs (CXLs) where they are considered safe (EFSA 2023).

For certain products, risks were identified that require action (EFSA 2023). Because these risks are often associated with the more toxic alpha-cypermethrin, rather than reducing cypermethrin MRLs to the LOD, the European Commission proposes two sets of MRLs, one for cypermethrin (sum of isomers) and a separate one for alpha-cypermethrin. This approach will allow the EU to maintain cypermethrin MRLs for many products identified as a risk, and also to maintain alignment with CXLs (European Commission 2024).

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be published in October 2026, and will apply 6 months after its publication.

Recommended Actions

The opportunity to submit comments on this proposal closed on 1 May 2026.

Suppliers to the EU market of affected products should seek alternative chemical and non-chemical alternatives to the use of cypermethrins.

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 (2023) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for cypermethrins according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal, 21(3): e07800.

European Commission (2024) Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues, 23–24 September.

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Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin in or on certain products

Draft Annex II

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes under discussion for maximum residue levels for cypermethrins[1]

Food category	Products	Cypermethrins (sum of isomers) (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits	2	0.5
	Oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins	2	0.3
Pome fruits	Apples, pears	1	0.01*
	Quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	1	0.15
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches, cherries, plums	2	0.01*
Berries and other small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	0.5	0.15
	Blackberries, dewberries, raspberries	0.5	0.01*
	Blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries	0.05*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Dates, figs, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/ jambolans, kiwi fruits, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocado, bananas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, soursops	0.05*	0.01*
	Table olives	0.05*	0.4
	Kumquats	0.05*	0.3
	Litchis/lychees	2	0.01*
	Mangoes	0.7	0.01*
	Papayas	0.5	0.01*
Root and tuber vegetables	Sweet potatoes	0.05*	0.03
	Cassava roots/manioc, yams, arrowroots	0.05*	0.01*
	Beetroots, carrots, celeriac, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg roots parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips	0.05*	0.1
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots	0.1	0.09
	Spring onions	0.05*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.5	0.01*
	Tomatoes, aubergines/eggplants	0.5	0.07
	Cucumbers, courgettes	0.2	0.01*
	Gherkins, watermelons, pumpkins	0.2	0.07
	Melons	0.2	0.04
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli	1	0.1
	Brussels sprouts, head cabbages	1	0.15
	Cauliflowers	0.5	0.04
	Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies	1	0.01*

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Cypermethrins (sum of isomers) (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Leaf vegetables	Lamb's lettuces, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards	2	1.5
	Lettuces, escaroles/broadleaved endives	2	0.01*
	Cresses, land cresses	2	4
	Baby leaf crops	2	5
	Spinaches, purslanes, chards	0.7	0.01*
	Watercresses	0.7	4
	Witloofs/Belgian endives	0.05*	0.01*
	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	2	5
Legume vegetables	Beans and peas (with pods)	0.7	0.2
	Beans and peas (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils	0.7	0.01*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus	0.1	0.4
	Cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	0.05*	0.01*
	Globe artichokes	2	0.1
	Leeks	0.5	0.01*
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Cultivated fungi, mosses, lichens	0.05*	0.01*
	Wild fungi	1	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes		0.05*	0.01*
Oilseeds	Linseeds, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds	0.2	0.1
	Pumpkin seeds, castor beans	0.05*	0.01*
	Cotton seeds	0.2	0.15
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production	0.05*	0.4
	Oil palm kernels, Oil palm fruits, kapok	0.05*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, oats	2	0.4
	Rice	2	0.2
	Rye	2	0.08
	Wheat	2	0.15
	Sorghum	0.3	0.8
Teas		0.5	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.1*	0.05*
Herbal infusions	Valerian	0.1*	0.05*
	Ginseng	0.1*	0.15
Cocoa beans		0.1*	0.05*
Carobs		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		30	0.05*

Continued …

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Cypermethrins (sum of isomers) (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, capers, saffron, mace	0.1*	0.05*
	Allspice/pimento, Sichuan peppers, caraway, juniper berries, peppercorns, vanilla, tamarind	0.1*	0.5
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots	1	0.1
	Chicory roots	0.05*	0.03
Products of animal origin	Muscle (swine, cattle)	2	0.03
	Muscle (sheep, goats, horses)	2	0.05
	Muscle from poultry	0.1	0.05
	Fat from swine	2	0.07
	Fat from cattle	2	0.2
	Liver, kidney, edible offals from swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horses	0.2	0.05
	Muscle, fat, liver, kidney, and edible offals from other farmer terrestrial animals	0.2	0.01*
	Milk (cattle)	0.05	0.015
	Bird eggs	0.05*	0.01*
	Honey	0.05*	0.01*

* Limit of determination.
[1] For products *not* listed above, no changes are proposed.

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