Maximum residue levels for cypermethrins

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

Draft Annex II [download]

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) is discussing the amendment of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for cypermethrin as summarised in Table 1.

In addition, the EU is considering setting new specific MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin (see Maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin).

For certain products, risks were identified (EFSA 2023) often associated with the more toxic alpha-cypermethrin. Rather than reduce cypermethrin MRLs to the limit of determination (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 maintain alignment with Codex Alimentarius MRLs (CXLs) (European Commission 2024).

Timeline

This Regulation is still under discussion and is expected to be adopted in 2026.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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*

Continued…

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
	Safflower seeds	0.1	0.01*
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*
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
	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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