

Maximum residue levels for dicofol

Published by AGRINFO on 27 Oct 2025

EU discusses reduction of dicofol MRLs, with particular impacts on melons, cotton seeds, teas, hops, and poultry 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 azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products

Draft Annex

Update

The European Union (EU) is discussing reducing the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for dicofol on certain products to the limit of determination (LOD: the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). There will be particular impacts on **melons, cotton seeds, teas, hops, and poultry products**; a reduction in current LODs on some other products is also proposed.

Impacted products

Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions, melons, linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseed/canola seeds, soyabean, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, cotton seeds, olives for oil production, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, teas, cocoa beans, hops, muscle, liver, kidney, edible offals (poultry), milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse), bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail), honey and other apiculture products

What is changing?

The EU is discussing the reduction of MRLs for dicofol as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The MRLs for dicofol that have been in place since the adoption of Regulation [396/2005](#) have never been reviewed. Following a series of evaluations and a stakeholder consultation (see [EFSA invites submission of data to support review of certain MRLs](#)), the European Food Safety Authority has concluded that there is not sufficient toxicological data for melons, cotton seeds, teas, hops, and poultry products to allow a complete exposure assessment ([EFSA 2023](#)).

Timeline

This Regulation is still under discussion. It is expected to be adopted in 2026, with new MRLs applying from late 2026 or early 2027.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of melons, cotton seeds, teas, hops, and poultry products should review their existing use of dicofol and start to seek alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

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 (2023) [Targeted review of maximum residue levels \(MRLs\) for dicofol](#). EFSA Journal, 21: e8425.

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for azocyclotin, chlufenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products

Draft Annex

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Table & Figures

Food category	Products	Dicofol (mg/kg)	
		Existing MRL	Proposed MRL
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/ cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.05*	0.02*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions	0.05*	0.02*
Fruiting vegetables	Melons	0.2	0.02*
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, soybeans, castor beans, seeds of: poppy, sesame, sunflower, rapeseed/canola, mustard, pumpkin, safflower, borage, gold of pleasure, hemp	0.05*	0.02*
	Cotton seeds	0.1	0.02*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production, oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok	0.05*	0.02*
Teas	Teas	20	0.02*
Cocoa beans	Cocoa beans	0.1*	0.04*
Hops	Hops	50	0.1*
Products of animal origin	Muscle, fat (poultry)	0.1	0.02*
	Liver, kidney, edible offals (poultry)	0.05	0.02*
	Milk (cattle, sheep, goats, horse)	0.1	0.02*
	Bird eggs (chicken, ducks, geese, quails)	0.05	0.02*
	Honey and other apiculture products	0.02*	0.1*

1. For products not listed here, no changes are proposed.
 * Limit of determination (LOD).



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Source: based on [PLAN/2025/1425 Rev0](#)

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