Maximum residue levels for difluoroacetic acid

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EU increases MRLs for difluoroacetic acid on specified products including citrus and stone fruits, some vegetables, cereals, and animal products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2640 of 9 October 2024 amending and correcting Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, difluoroacetic acid (DFA), fluopyram and flupyradifurone in or on certain products

Update

The European Commission has increased the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for difluoroacetic acid on certain products.

Impacted products

lemons, limes, mandarins, macadamias, apricots, peaches, plums, cherries, dewberries, avocados, mangoes, papayas, Chinese cabbages/ pe-tsai, kales, asparagus, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, maize/ corn, oats, rye, sugar beet roots, chicory roots, fat from pigs, liver from pigs, fat from sheep and goats, fat from poultry

What is changing?

Difluoroacetic acid is not itself a pesticide. It is a metabolite that can be found in crops following application of the insecticide flupyradifurone. The EU has increased the MRLs for difluoroacetic acid as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

Following a request to review the MRLs for difluoroacetic acid and to set import tolerances, EFSA (2023) did not identify a consumer health risk. The EU therefore proposes to adopt higher MRLs to avoid trade barriers when importing the crops concerned.

Timeline

The new MRLs will apply from **30 April 2025**.

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) Modification of the existing maximum residue levels and setting import tolerances for flupyradifurone and difluoroacetic acid (DFA) in various crops. EFSA Journal, 21(12): 8423.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2640 as regards maximum residue levels for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, difluoroacetic acid (DFA), fluopyram and flupyradifurone in or on certain products

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Table & Figures

Table 1
Proposed changes to maximum residue levels for difluoroacetic acid[1]

Food category	Products	Difluoroacetic acid (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Lemons, limes, mandarins	0.05	0.09
Tree nuts	Macadamias	0.04	0.3
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches, plums	0.02*	0.3
	Cherries	0.02*	0.15
Berries and small fruits	Dewberries	0.02*	0.07
Miscellaneous fruits	Avocados	0.02*	0.15
	Mangoes, papayas	0.02*	0.2
Brassica vegetables	Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai	0.02*	0.7
	Kales	0.6	0.7
Stem vegetables	Asparagus	0.2	0.5
Oilseeds	Sesame seeds	0.05	0.9
	Sunflower seeds	0.05	0.15
Cereals	Maize/corn	0.1	0.15
	Oats	0.3	0.8
	Rye	0.3	1.5
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, chicory roots	0.02*	0.09
Products of animal origin	Fat from pigs	0.1	0.2
	Liver from pigs	0.09	0.1
	Fat from sheep and goats	0.15	0.3
	Fat from poultry	0.03	0.04

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

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Source: based on Regulation (EU) 2024/2640

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