# Maximum residue levels for endosulfan

*Published by AGRINFO on 27 Oct 2025; Revised 30 Jun 2026*

EU proposes reduction of endosulfan MRLs on tea, soybeans, cotton seeds, and spices

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 V

## Update

The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a draft proposal to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for endosulfan on **tea, soyabeans, cotton seeds, and certain spices** to the limit of determination (LOD). A reduction in current LODs on other products is also proposed (G/SPS/N/EU/959). (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

## Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas, potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergine/eggplants, okra/ladies' fingers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn, broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies, lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives, chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon, beans, peas, lentils, asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes, lupins/lupini beans, linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, soyabeans, cotton seeds, olives for oil production, oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok, barley, buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat, tea, anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots, (swine, cattle, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals); milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse), bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail), honey

## What is changing?

The EU proposes to reduce the MRLs for endosulfan as summarised in Table 1.


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

## Why?

The endosulfan MRLs 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 insufficient toxicological data for tea, soybeans, cotton seeds, and spices to allow a complete exposure assessment (EFSA 2023).

## Timeline

The proposed new MRLs are expected to apply from September 2027.

## Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of tea, soybeans, cotton seeds, and the spices listed in Table 1 should review their existing use of endosulfan and start to look for alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

The WTO consultation on this proposal closed on 25 August 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 MRLs, see Regulation of pesticide residues in the EU - Questions and Answers.

## Resources

EFSA (2023) Targeted review of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for endosulfan. EFSA Journal, 21(7): 8114.

## Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Draft Annex V

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

## Tables & Figures

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

| Food category | Products | Endosulfan (mg/kg) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Existing MRL | Proposed MRL |
| Citrus fruits | Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Tree nuts | Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts | 0.1* | 0.03* |
| Pome fruits | Apples, pears quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Stone fruits | Apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Berries and small fruits | Table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red, yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black, white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Miscellaneous fruit | Dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/ lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Root and tuber vegetables | Potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes , parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg roots parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/ rutabagas, turnips | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Bulb vegetables | Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions | 0.1* | 0.03* |
| Fruiting vegetables | Tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergine/eggplants, okra/lady's fingers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Brassica vegetables | Broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabis | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Leaf vegetables | Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards/ beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives | 0.05* | 0.03* |

Continued…


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Table 1
Continued

| Food category | Products | Endosulfan (mg/kg) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Existing MRL | Proposed MRL |
| Herbs and edible flowers | Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon | 0.05* | 0.06* |
| Legume vegetables | Beans (with pods), beans (without pods), peas (with pods), peas (without pods), lentils | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Stem vegetables | Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Fungi, mosses, and lichens | Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Algae and prokaryotes | | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Pulses | Beans, lentils, lupins/lupini beans | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Oilseeds | Linseeds, peanut/groundnuts, castor beans, seeds of: poppy, sesame, sunflower, canola, mustard, pumpkin, safflower, borage, gold of pleasure, hemp | 0.1* | 0.03* |
| | Soyabeans | 0.5 | 0.03* |
| | Cotton seeds | 0.3 | 0.03* |
| Oil fruits | Olives for oil production | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| | Oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok | 0.1* | 0.03* |
| Cereals | Barley, buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Teas | | 30 | 0.03* |
| Spices | Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg | 1 | 0.1* |
| | Allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind | 5 | 0.1* |
| | Liquorice, turmeric/curcuma | 0.5 | 0.1* |
| Sugar plants | Sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Products of animal origin | Swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| | Milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse) | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| | Bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail) | 0.05* | 0.03* |
| Honey and other apiculture products | | 0.01* | 0.05* |

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

AGRINFO
www.agrinfo.eu

Source: based on Draft Annex V


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

**Disclaimer**: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*


Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*