Maximum residue levels for fenbuconazole

Published by AGRINFO on 04 Jul 2024; Revised 06 Feb 2025

EU aligns fenbuconazole MRLs on certain products with Codex Standards

Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/195 of 3 February 2025 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for fenbuconazole and penconazole in or on certain products

Update

The European Union has amended the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for fenbuconazole. The most significant impacts will be on exports of apricots, plums, grapes, cranberries, bananas, sweet/bell peppers, cucurbits, sunflower seeds, peanuts, rapeseeds, barley, rye, and wheat.

Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, apricots, plums, peaches, table grapes, wine grapes, cranberries, bananas, sweet peppers/ bell peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, watermelons, pumpkins, peanuts/ groundnuts, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/ canola seeds, barley, rye, wheat, tea, milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse)

What is changing?

The EU has amended the MRLs for fenbuconazole as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The MRLs for fenbuconazole were re-evaluated and adjusted after new trials addressed the data gaps identified by EFSA (2018). For grapefruits, oranges, and peaches, EFSA (2023) recommended lowering the MRLs to align with Codex MRLs (CXLs), while the MRLs on lemons, limes, mandarins, pome fruits, cherries, and blueberries could be maintained. Due to unaddressed data gaps, the MRLs will be lowered to the limit of determination (LOD) on apricots, plums, grapes, bananas, cranberries, sweet/bell peppers, cucurbits, and various seeds and cereals. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

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In addition, advances in analytical techniques allow lower LODs to be achieved for milk, so the LOD for milk will be lowered from 0.05 to 0.01 mg/kg.

The MRL on teas is increased following the adoption of a new CXL, for which EFSA (2022) concluded that there was no risk for consumers.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **24 August 2025**.

Products exported before 24 August 2025 that comply with the old MRLs will not be removed from the EU market after that date, even if they do not comply with the new MRLs.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers of grapefruits, oranges, and peaches should review their use of fenbuconazole and assess whether any changes will be needed to existing good agricultural practices (GAP).

Exporters of apricots, plums, grapes, cranberries, bananas, sweet/ bell peppers, cucurbits, sunflower seeds, peanuts, rapeseeds, barley, rye, and wheat should look for possible alternative solutions in anticipation of the MRL changes.

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 (2018) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for fenbuconazole according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal, 16(8): 5399.

EFSA (2022) Scientific support for preparing an EU position in the 53rd session of the codex committee on pesticide residues (CCPR). EFSA Journal, 20(9): 7521.

EFSA (2023) Evaluation of confirmatory data following the Article 12 MRL review for fenbuconazole. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8205.

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Sources

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

Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels for fenbuconazole

Food category	Products	Fenbuconazole (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruit	Grapefruits	0.7	0.5
	Oranges	0.9	0.5
Stone fruits	Apricots, plums	0.6	0.01*
	Peaches	0.6	0.5
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	1.5	0.01*
	Cranberries	1	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Bananas	0.05	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.6	0.01*
	Cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, watermelons, pumpkins	0.3	0.01*
Oilseeds	Peanuts/groundnuts	0.1	0.01*
	Sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds	0.05	0.01*
Cereals	Barley	0.2	0.01*
	Rye, wheat	0.1	0.01*
Teas		0.05*	30
Milk	Cattle, sheep, goat, horse	0.05*	0.01*

* Limit of determination.

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Source: Regulation 2025/195

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