Maximum residue levels for fenpropathrin

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EU proposes to reduce the MRLs for fenpropathrin on citrus fruits, strawberries, melons, and tea

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 fenpropathrin on **citrus fruits, strawberries, melons, and tea** to the limit of determination (LOD) of 0.01 mg/kg (G/SPS/N/EU/959). A reduction of current LODs on other products is also proposed. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

Impacted products

Citrus fruits, strawberries, melons, tea, coffee beans, chamomile, hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, other flower infusions, strawberry, rooibos, mate/maté, other leaves/herb infusions, valerian, ginseng, other root infusions, cocoa beans, carobs/Saint John's breads, hops, anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, other seed spices, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, other fruit spices, cinnamon, other bark spices, liquorice, ginger, turmeric/curcuma, horseradish, other root/rhizome spices, cloves, capers, other bud spices, saffron, other flower pistil spices, mace, other aril spices, swine, cattle, sheep, goat, horse, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals, milk, birds' eggs, honey, amphibians and reptiles, terrestrial invertebrate animals, wild terrestrial vertebrate animals

What is changing?

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

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Why?

The MRLs for fenpropathrin 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 was not able to conclude a risk assessment due to inadequate toxicological data (EFSA 2023).

Timeline

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

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of citrus fruits, strawberries, melons, and tea should review their existing use of fenpropathrin 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 fenpropathrin. EFSA Journal, 21(6): 8057.

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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

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Proposed changes to maximum residue levels for fenpropathrin

Food category	Products	Fenpropathrin (mg/kg)	
		Current MRL	Proposed MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, other citrus fruits	2	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Strawberries	2	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Melons	1	0.01*
Teas		2	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.02*	0.05*
Herbal infusions	Chamomile, hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, other flower infusions, strawberry, rooibos, mate/maté, other leaves/herbal infusions, valerian, ginseng, other root infusions	0.02*	0.05*
Cocoa beans		0.02*	0.05*
Carobs/St John's breads		0.02*	0.05*
Hops		0.02*	0.05*
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, other seed spices, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, other fruit spices, cinnamon, other bark spices, liquorice, ginger, turmeric/curcuma, horseradish, other root/rhizome spices, cloves, capers, other bud spices, saffron, other flower pistil spices, mace, other aril spices	0.02*	0.05*
Products of animal origin	Swine, cattle, sheep, goat, horse, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals (muscle, fat, liver, kidney, edible offals (other than liver and kidney), other bovine products)		0.01*
Milk	Cattle, sheep, goat, horse, other milks		0.01*
Birds' eggs	Chicken, duck, goose, quail, other bird eggs		0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products			0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles			0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrate animals			0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals			0.01*

* Limit of determination (LOD).

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