Maximum residue levels for fipronil

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EU approves import tolerance MRLs for fipronil on sugarcane and animal products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/347 of 22 January 2024 amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for fipronil in or on certain products

Update

The EU has increased the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for fipronil on sugarcane, and on bovine, sheep, and goat fat.

Impacted products

Sugarcane, and bovine, sheep, and goat fat

What is changing?

The EU has raised the MRLs for fipronil on certain products as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The EU received an application for import tolerances in relation to fipronil used on sugarcane and potatoes in Brazil, the USA, and Ukraine. As sugarcane and potatoes can be fed to animals, a change to the MRLs in animal fats was also requested. EFSA (2023) concluded that the data submitted in support of the application were insufficient to set a new MRL for potatoes. However, EFSA concluded that the proposed changes regarding sugarcane and animal fats were acceptable in relation to consumer safety.

Timeline

The new MRLs will apply from **12 February 2024**.

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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.

The European Commission's proposal to introduce import tolerances resulted in considerable criticism from European stakeholders relating to concerns about public health and the risk to bees. This led to a proposed Resolution in the European Parliament requesting the Commission to withdraw the proposal; however, the Resolution was not adopted.

Resources

EFSA (2023) Setting of import tolerances for fipronil in potatoes, sugar canes and commodities of animal origin. EFSA Journal, 21(4): 7931.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/347 as regards maximum residue levels for fipronil in or on certain products

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels for fipronil

Food category	Products	Fipronil (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Sugar plants	Sugar canes	0.005*	0.01
Products of animal origin	Bovine fat	0.005*	0.03
	Sheep fat	0.005*	0.015
	Goat fat	0.005*	0.015

* Limit of determination.

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Source: Regulation (EU) 2024/347

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