Maximum residue levels for fosetyl-Al/phosphonic acid

Published by AGRINFO on 03 Dec 2023; Revised 10 Oct 2024

EU revises fosetyl-Al MRLs, with impacts on sweetcorn and certain herbal infusions/spices

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2619 of 8 October 2024 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for fosetyl, potassium phosphonates and disodium phosphonate in or on certain products

Update

The European Commission has changed the residue definition for fosetyl-Al, potassium phosphonates, and disodium phosphonates to “phosphonic acid and its salts”, and has updated the existing maximum residue levels (MRLs) for these substances in certain commodities. This may have a particular impact on suppliers of sweetcorn, herbal infusions from flowers, and certain spices. In these cases the MRL is reduced to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods).

Impacted products

Citrus fruits, tree nuts, pome fruits, stone fruits, berries and small fruits, miscellaneous fruits, root and tuber vegetables, bulb vegetables, fruiting vegetables, Brassica vegetables, leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers, legume vegetables, stem vegetables, fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes, pulses, oilseeds and oil fruits, cereals, teas, coffee, herbal infusions, cocoa and carobs, hops, spices, sugar plants, muscle, fat, liver, kidney and edible offals from swine, cattle, sheep, goat, horses, poultry and other farmed land animals, milk, eggs, honey

What is changing?

The European Commission has changed the residue definition for three active substances – fosetyl-Al, potassium phosphonates, and disodium phosphonate – from “fosetyl-Al (sum of fosetyl, phosphonic acid and their salts, expressed as fosetyl)” to “phosphonic acid and its salts, expressed as phosphonic acid”.

The MRLs for fosetyl-Al have been reviewed based on this new definition. The MRLs for sweetcorn, herbal infusions from flowers, and certain spices (bark spices, root and rhizome spices, bud spices, flower pistil spices) have been reduced to the LOD. A comparison of previous

fosetyl-Al and the new phosphonic acid MRLs can be found in Table 1.

Why?

The residue definition for fosetyl-Al, potassium phosphonates, and disodium phosphonates to "phosphonic acid and its salts" has been changed on the recommendation of EFSA (2021).

These active substances all degrade to phosphonic acid. Their residues must be jointly assessed when setting MRLs.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **29 April 2025**.

Recommended Actions

These substances are not only used in plant protection products, but also as ingredients in fertilisers, plant strengtheners, manure, and soil amendments. Suppliers of all products should assess their compliance with the new MRLs.

Suppliers of **sweetcorn, herbal infusions from flowers, and spices (bark spices, root and rhizome spices, bud spices, flower pistil spices)** should review their current uses of fosetyl-Al, potassium phosphonates, and disodium phosphonate as the MRL is reduced to the LOD. Suppliers of these products should look for possible alternative solutions.

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 (2021) Reasoned opinion on the joint review of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for fosetyl, disodium phosphonate and potassium phosphonates according to Articles 12 and 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal 19(8): 6782.

Sources

Regulation (EU) 2024/2619 as regards maximum residue levels for fosetyl, potassium phosphonates and disodium phosphonate in or on certain products

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

Table & Figures

Table 1
Maximum residue levels for phosphonic acid and its salts (expressed as phosphonic acid)

Food category	Products	Old MRL: Fosetyl-Al[1]	New MRL: Phosphonic acid
Citrus fruit	Grapefruits, oranges	75	100
	Lemons, limes, mandarins	150	100
Tree nuts	Almonds, chestnuts, hazelnuts/ cobnuts, pistachios, walnuts	1500	1000
	Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, coconuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels	500	400
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars	150	100
Stone fruits	Apricots	2*	60
	Cherries (sweet), plums	2*	8
	Peaches	50	60
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes	100	100
	Wine grapes	200	150
	Strawberries	100	70
	Blackberries, raspberries	300	200
	Dewberries	2*	80
	Blueberries, currants, gooseberries	200	150
	Cranberries, rosehips, mulberries	2*	1.5*
	Azaroles/ Mediterranean medlars	50	50
	Elderberries	80	60
Miscellaneous fruits	Dates, figs, carambolas, jambuls	2*	1.5*
	Table olives	100	80
	Kumquats	2*	3
	Kaki/ Japanese persimmons	50	50
	Kiwi fruits (green, red, yellow)	200	150
	Litchis/ lychees, prickly pears/ cactus fruits, star apples/ cainitos, American persimmons/ Virginia kaki	2*	1.5*
	Passionfruits/ maracujas	2*	20
	Avocados	70	50
	Bananas, mangoes	2*	1.5*
	Papayas	2*	3
	Granate apples/ pomegranates	90	70
	Cherimoyas, guavas, breadfruits, soursops/ guanabanas	2*	1.5*
	Pineapples	50	20
	Durians	2*	2*

Continued ...

[1] Sum of fosetyl, phosphonic acid and their salts, expressed as fosetyl [Regulation (EU) 2022/1324, Annex IIIA].
* Limit of determination.

Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Old MRL: Fosetyl-Al[1]	New MRL: Phosphonic acid
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes	200	150
	Cassava roots/ manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots	2*	1.5*
	Beetroots, carrots, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, salsifies, swedes, turnips	2*	1.5*
	Celeriacs/ turnip rooted celeries	8	6
	Horseradishes	200	150
	Parsley roots/ Hamburg root parsley	2*	4
	Radishes	25	40
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, shallots	30	20
	Onions	50	40
	Spring onions/ green onions, Welsh onions	30	10
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes, aubergines/ eggplants	100	70
	Sweet peppers/ bell peppers	130	70
	Okra/ lady's fingers	2*	1.5*
	Cucumbers	80	80
	Gherkins	75	80
	Courgettes	100	80
	Melons, pumpkins, watermelons	75	60
	Sweet corn	5	1.5*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers	70	50
	Brussels sprouts, head cabbages	10	2
	Chinese cabbages/ pe-tsai, kales	30	20
	Kohlrabies	10	5
Leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers	Lamb's lettuces/ corn salads, escaroles, cresses, Roman rocket, red mustards, baby leaf crops	75	150
	Lettuces, spinaches	300	200
	Purslanes	2*	100
	Chards/ beet leaves	15	70
	Grape leaves, watercresses	2*	1.5*
	Witloofs/ Belgian endives	75	150
	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/ bay leaves, tarragon	400	300
Legume vegetables	Beans (with and without pods), peas (with and without pods), lentils	2*	1.5*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels	2*	1.5*
	Globe artichokes	50	100
	Leeks	30	10
	Rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	2*	1.5*
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes	2*	1.5*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, lupini beans	2*	3
	Peas	2*	4

Continued ...

[1] Sum of fosetyl, phosphonic acid and their salts, expressed as fosetyl [Regulation (EU) 2022/1324, Annex IIIA].
* Limit of determination.

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Old MRL: Fosetyl-Al[1]	New MRL: Phosphonic acid
Oilseeds	Linseeds, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseed/ canola seeds, soyabeans, mustard seeds, cotton seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans	2*	1.5*
Oilseeds and fruits	Peanuts/ groundnuts	2*	3
	Olives for oil production	100	80
	Oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok	2*	1.5*
Cereals	Barley, maize/ corn, millet, oats, rye, sorghum	2*	1.5*
	Buckwheat	2*	2
	Rice	2*	3
	Wheat	150	80
Teas, coffee beans		5*	20*
Herbal infusions	Herbal infusions from flowers	500	20*
	Herbal infusions from leaves and herbs	2,000	1,500
	Herbal infusions from roots or any other plant parts	500	20*
Cocoa beans, carobs/ Saint John's breads		2*	20*
Hops		2,000	1,500
Spices	Seed and fruit spices	400	300
	Bark spices, root and rhizome spices, bud spices, flower pistil spices, aril spices	400	20*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, sugar canes	2*	1.5*
	Chicory roots	75	70

Continued ...

[1] Sum of fosetyl, phosphonic acid and their salts, expressed as fosetyl [Regulation (EU) 2022/1324, Annex IIIA].
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Table 1 Continued			
Food category	Products	Old MRL: Fosetyl-Al[1]	New MRL: Phosphonic acid
Animal products			
Commodities from swine	Muscle	0.7	0.5
	Fat	1.5	1.5
	Liver	0.8	0.5
	Kidney	6	7
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	6	7
Commodities from cattle/ sheep/ goats	Muscle	0.7	0.6
	Fat	1.5	2
	Liver	1.5	0.9
	Kidney	8	7
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	8	7
Commodities from equine/ other farmed terrestrial animals	Muscle	0.5*	0.6
	Fat	0.5*	2
	Liver	0.5	0.9
	Kidney	0.5	7
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	0.5	7
Commodities from poultry	Muscle	0.7	0.5
	Fat	0.7	0.5
	Liver	0.7	0.5
	Kidney	0.5*	0.5
	Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	0.7	0.5
Milk		0.5	0.4
Birds' eggs		0.7	0.5
Honey and other apiculture products		0.5*	100
Amphibians and reptiles		0.5*	0.5*
Terrestrial invertebrate animals		0.5*	0.5*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.5*	0.5*

[1] Sum of fosetyl, phosphonic acid and their salts, expressed as fosetyl [Regulation (EU) 2022/1324, Annex IIIA].
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Based on Regulation (EU) 2024/2619

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