

Maximum residue levels for isoxaben

Published by AGRINFO on 30 Nov 2022; Revised 17 Sep 2023

EU reduces MRLs for isoxaben to 0.01–0.05 mg/kg on all products except courgettes and beans without pods

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/466](#) of 3 March 2023 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 isoxaben, novaluron and tetraconazole in or on certain products

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/1719](#) of 8 September 2023 amending Annexes II and IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for isoxaben, metaldehyde, *Metarhizium brunneum* strain Ma 43, paclobutrazol and Straight Chain Lepidopteran Pheromones (SCLP) in or on certain products

Update

In March 2023 the EU reduced the MRLs for isoxaben to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods) on fruit, vegetables, cereals and hops, with the exception of courgettes and beans without pods. EFSA applied the data relating to beans without pods to establish the same MRL for peas without pods. On 11 September 2023, the EU increased the MRL for isoxaben on gherkins, applying the data relating to courgettes to the MRL for gherkins.

Impacted products

almonds, chestnuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats, Japanese medlars, cherries, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rosehips, mulberries, azaroles, Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, carrots, horseradishes, parsnips, parsley roots, cucumbers, gherkins, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil, edible flowers, laurel, bay leaves, thyme, peas (without pods), asparagus, barley, buckwheat and other pseudo-cereals, maize/corn, millet, proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat, hops

What is changing?

MRLs

The amendments to existing MRLs, including the establishment of MRLs for beans and peas (without pods), are shown in Table 1. The existing MRL for courgettes remains unchanged at 0.05 mg/kg. For gherkins, the MRL was initially reduced to 0.01 mg/kg, but in September 2023 was revised to 0.05 mg/kg (the same as courgettes).

LODs

For all fruits and vegetables not listed in Table 1, oilseeds, and sugar plants, the LOD is decreased from 0.02 to 0.01 mg/kg. The LOD on teas, coffees, infusions and spices is increased from 0.02 to 0.05 mg/kg.

Why?

Following a review of existing isoxaben MRLs ([EFSA 2022](#)), it was recommended to lower the existing MRLs for fruits and vegetables – with the exception of courgettes and fresh beans without pods, for which there is sufficient supporting data for the current good agricultural practices (GAP).

A further request to modify the MRL on gherkins was submitted using the fast-track procedure. Because the data supporting the MRL for courgettes can be extrapolated to gherkins, that request was accepted by the European Commission.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **26 September 2023**. For products exported before that date, the old MRLs still apply.

The 0.05 mg/kg MRL for gherkins will apply from **27 September 2023**.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of fruit, vegetables, cereals and hops (with the exception of courgettes, gherkins, and beans/peas without pods) should check for current use of isoxaben on these products and seek alternative solutions to isoxaben. Suppliers of strawberries should verify whether existing agricultural practices are compatible with the reduced MRL of 0.01 mg/kg.

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 (2022) [Review of the existing maximum residue levels for isoxaben according to Article 12 of Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005](#). EFSA Journal, 20(1): 7062.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/466](#)

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/1719](#)

Table & Figures

Table 1 Maximum residue levels for isoxaben			
Food category	Products	Isoxaben (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Tree nuts	Almonds, chestnuts, hazelnuts/ cobnuts, walnuts	0.05	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars	0.05	0.01*
Stone fruits	Cherries, plums	0.05	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes, blackberries, dewberries raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rosehips, mulberries, azaroles/ Mediterranean medlars, elderberries	0.05	0.01*
	Strawberries	0.05	0.01
Root and tuber vegetables	Carrots, horseradishes, parsnips, parsley roots	0.05	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, watermelons	0.05	0.01*
	Gherkins	0.01*	0.05
Leaf vegetables	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/ bay leaves, tarragon	0.05	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Peas (without pods)	0.05	0.02
	Beans (without pods)	0.02*	0.02
Stem vegetables	Asparagus	0.05	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, buckwheat and other pseudo-cereals, maize/ corn, common millet/ proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat	0.1	0.01*
Hops		0.05	0.01*
* Limit of determination.			
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Based on Regulation [2023/466](#), Regulation [2023/1719](#), and [SANTE/10108/2022](#)

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