

Maximum residue levels for metalaxyl

Published by AGRINFO on 30 Nov 2023; Revised 23 Jan 2025

EU amends MRLs for metalaxyl on pineapple and dried ginseng

Commission Regulation (EU) [2025/115](#) of 21 January 2025 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 fluxapyroxad, lambda-cyhalothrin, metalaxyl, and nicotine in or on certain products

Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/1342](#) of 21 May 2024 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for deltamethrin, metalaxyl, thiabendazole and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products

[Corrigendum](#) to Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1342 of 21 May 2024 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for deltamethrin, metalaxyl, thiabendazole and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products

Update

The European Union (EU) has adopted Codex maximum residue levels (CXLs) on pineapple and dried ginseng.

Previously the EU amended the MRLs for metalaxyl, with potential impacts on suppliers of lemons, apples, pears, onions, globe artichokes, and soyabeans.

Impacted products

Lemons, limes, mandarins, apples, pears, table grapes, wine grapes, onions, sweet peppers/ bell peppers, melons, watermelons, globe artichokes, soyabeans, oil palm fruits, cocoa beans, peppercorns, kidney and edible offals from swine, bovine and equine liver, bovine and equine kidney and edible offals, kidney and edible offals from sheep, goat and other farmed animals, pineapple, ginseng

What is changing?

The EU has raised the MRLs for metalaxyl on pineapple from 0.01 to 0.1 mg/kg, and on ginseng from 0.05 to 0.06 mg/kg.

Previously, the MRLs for metalaxyl for lemons, apples, pears, onions, globe artichokes, and soyabeans were reduced to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). The EU also amended the MRLs for metalaxyl on other products as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA 2021](#)) assessed the metalaxyl MRLs for various products based on available information. For products where complete information was provided, EFSA recommended maintaining the MRL, or adjusting it slightly to ensure safety for consumers.

For products where data gaps were not addressed, and for products with identified risks, EFSA suggested setting lower alternative MRLs, or replacing those MRLs with the product-specific LOD.

For grapes, onions, potatoes, and peppercorns, CXLs were considered safe by [EFSA \(2022\)](#) and can therefore be adopted.

Based on data submitted by manufacturers, [EFSA \(2023a\)](#) recommended new, higher MRLs for oil palm fruits from Colombia and peppercorns from Vietnam to avoid trade barriers.

On 2 December 2023, the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted new CXLs for metalaxyl on multiple products. For pineapple and ginseng, [EFSA \(2023b\)](#) did not identify risks to consumers in the EU.

Timeline

The new MRLs on pineapple and dried ginseng apply from **11 February 2025**.

The MRLs in Table 1 apply from **11 December 2024**. Products exported before 11 December 2024 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 products affected, in particular suppliers of lemons, apples, pears, onions, globe artichokes, and soyabeans, should review their current use of metalaxyl and look for possible alternative solutions in anticipation of these 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 (2021) [Evaluation of confirmatory data following the Article 12 MRL review for metalaxyl-M](#). EFSA Journal, 19(12): 6996.

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 (2023a) [Setting of import tolerances for metalaxyl-M in oil palms fruits and peppercorn](#). EFSA Journal, 21(5): 8008.

EFSA (2023b) [Scientific support for preparing an EU position in the 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues \(CCPR\)](#). EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8111.

Sources


Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/1342](#) as regards maximum residue levels for deltamethrin, metalaxyl, thiabendazole and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products

Commission Regulation (EU) [2025/115](#) as regards maximum residue levels for fluxapyroxad, lambda-cyhalothrin, metalaxyl, and nicotine in or on certain products

Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for metalaxyl			
Food category	Products	Metalaxyl (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruit	Lemons	0.5	0.01*
	Limes, mandarins	0.5	0.4
Pome fruits	Apples, pears	1	0.01*
Berries and other small fruits	Table grapes	2	1.5
	Wine grapes	1	1.5
Bulb vegetables	Onions	0.5	0.03
Fruiting vegetables	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.5	0.4
	Melons, watermelons	0.2	0.15
Stem vegetables	Globe artichokes	0.05	0.02*
Oilseeds	Soyabeans	0.1*	0.01*
Oilfruits	Oil palm fruits	0.01*	0.015
Cocoa beans		0.1	0.05
Fruit spices	Peppercorns	0.05*	2
Products of animal origin	Kidney and edible offals from swine	0.2	0.15
	Bovine and equine liver	0.05*	0.06
	Bovine and equine kidney and edible offals	0.3	0.4
	Kidney and edible offals from sheep, goats, and other farmed animals	0.3	0.15

* Limit of determination.


 www.agrinfo.eu

Source: based on Regulation [2024/1342](#)

Disclaimer: Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.