

Maximum residue levels for metalaxyl

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EU amends MRLs for metalaxyl, with impacts on lemons, apples, pears, onions, globe artichokes, and soyabeans

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 Commission has decided to amend the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for metalaxyl, with possible impacts on 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

What is changing?

The MRLs for metalaxyl for lemons, apples, pears, onions, globe artichokes, and soyabeans are 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 proposes to amend the MRLs for metalaxyl on other products as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA 2021](#)) assessed 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, Codex MRLs (CXLs) were considered safe by [EFSA \(2022\)](#) and can therefore be adopted.

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

Timeline

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


Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/1342](#) as regards maximum residue levels for deltamethrin, metalaxyl, thiabendazole and trifloxystrobin 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.


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

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