Maximum residue levels for metazachlor

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EU raises MRLs for metazachlor on leeks and honey

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1078 of 15 April 2024 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 azoxystrobin, flonicamid, isofetamid, mefentrifluconazole, metazachlor, pyrimethanil and quartz sand in or on certain products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/377 of 15 February 2023 amending Annexes II, III, IV and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for benzalkonium chloride (BAC), chlorpropham, didecyldimethylammonium chloride (DDAC), flutriafol, metazachlor, nicotine, profenofos, quizalofop-P, sodium aluminium silicate, thiabendazole and triadimenol in or on certain products

Update

The European Commission has raised the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for metazachlor on leeks and honey.

Impacted products

Leeks, honey; also radishes, broccoli, cauliflowers, kales, swine liver

What is changing?

The EU has raised the MRLs for metazachlor:

- on leeks from 0.06 to 0.3 mg/kg
- on honey from 0.05 to 0.08 mg/kg.

Why?

Following an application for a modification of the MRL for leeks and honey, EFSA (2023) concluded that the proposed amendments were acceptable for consumer safety.

Timeline

The new MRLs for metazachlor will apply from **6 May 2024**.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers of leeks and honey should maintain existing good agricultural practices (GAP) to ensure compliance with the new MRLs by May 2024.

Background

Regulation (EU) 2023/377 of 15 February 2023 reduced the MRLs for metazachlor on radishes, broccoli, cauliflowers, kales, and swine liver to the limit of determination, based on the conclusion by EFSA (2019) that lower MRLs should be applied on these products (Table 1). At that time, the applicant did not provide sufficient data to support the intended use on leeks. This data has since been provided and subjected to EFSA evaluation.

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 (2023) Modification of the existing maximum residue levels for metazachlor in leeks and honey. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 1–27.

EFSA (2019) Evaluation of confirmatory data following the Article 12 MRL review and modification of the existing maximum residue levels for metazachlor in various commodities. EFSA Journal, 17(10): 5819.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1078 as regards maximum residue levels for azoxystrobin, flonicamid, isofetamid, mefentrifluconazole, metazachlor, pyrimethanil and quartz sand in or on certain products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/377 as regards maximum residue levels for benzalkonium chloride (BAC), chlorpropham, didecyldimethylammonium chloride (DDAC), flutriafol, metazachlor, nicotine, profenofos, quizalofop-P, sodium aluminium silicate, thiabendazole and

triadimenol in or on certain products

Table & Figures

Table 1
Reduced maximum residue levels for metazachlor

Food category	Products	Metazachlor[1] (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Root and tuber vegetables	Radishes	0.4	0.06*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers	0.4	0.06*
	Kales	0.2	0.15
Products of animal origin	Swine liver	0.2	0.15

1 Sum of metabolites 479M04, 479M08 and 479M16, expressed as metazachlor.
* Limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods).

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Source: Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/377

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