Maximum residue levels for metolachlor

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1163 as regards maximum residue levels for chlorpropham, fuberidazole, ipconazole, methoxyfenozide, S-metolachlor and triflusulfuron in or on certain products

What is changing and why?

The EU approval for S-metolachlor expired in January 2024. As no Codex maximum residue levels (MRLs) or import tolerances exist for this substance, the MRLs for S-metolachlor are set at the limit of detection (LOD). (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.) These LODs have been updated to reflect the most recent available analytical methods.

The MRLs for metolachlor ranged from 0.01 to 0.05 mg/kg. The European Commission has reduced them to 0.01 mg/kg for all fruits, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, cereals, and sugar; and to 0.02 mg/kg for herbs. The residue definition includes metolachlor and S-metolachlor (sum of isomers).

As the MRLs were already set at the LOD, the proposed changes are not expected to have a significant impact on the use of this substance on products intended for the EU market. However, these changes may have an impact on the analytical methods used by laboratories.

Actions

Laboratories testing for metolachlor in products for export to the EU market should verify that their analytical methods are able to test at the proposed new LODs.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **6 January 2026.**

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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