Maximum residue levels for metribuzin and metribuzin-DADK

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EU discusses reducing MRLs for metribuzin on cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives and estabishing separate MRLs for metribuzin-DADK

Draft Commission Regulation 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 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, chlormequat, metribuzin, metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK), terbuthylazine and triclopyr in or on certain products

Draft Annex

Update

The EU is discussing the reduction of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for metribuzin to the limit of determination (LOD) on cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives for oil production and lowering existing LODs on other products. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.) It is also considering setting separate MRLs for metribuzin's metabolite, metribuzin-DADK.

Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas, potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergine/eggplants, okra/ladies' fingers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn, broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabis, lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives, chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon, beans, peas, lentils, asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes, lupins/lupini beans, linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, soybeans, cotton seeds, olives for oil production, oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok, barley, buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat, tea, anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots, swine, cattle, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals; milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse), bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail), honey

What is changing?

The EU is discussing lowering the MRLs for metribuzin to the LOD on cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives for oil production. The existing LODs on other products would be lowered from 0.1 mg/kg is further lowered to 0.01–0.05 mg/kg. All changes are summarised in Table 1.

In addition, there is discussion of establishing two separate residue definitions, one for 'metribuzin' and the other for its metabolite 'metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK)' (see Table 2).

Why?

In 2024 the European Commission decided not to renew its approval of the active substance metribuzin due to concerns about its endocrine-disrupting properties. The two separate residue definitions under consideration, 'metribuzin' and its metabolite 'metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK)', account for the presence of metribuzin-DADK as a residue from the use of metribuzin. The toxicological profile and contribution to consumer exposure of the metabolite (metribuzin-DADK) is different from that of its parent compound metribuzin (EFSA 2023).

Timeline

This Regulation is still under discussion. EU Member States will need to withdraw authorisations of products containing metribuzin by **24 November 2025**. A revision of metribuzin MRLs is expected for 2026.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives for oil production should review their current use of metribuzin and start to seek alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

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.

For further information on the EU's process and principles for setting MRLs, see Regulation of pesticide residues in the EU – Questions and Answers.

In 2024, the European Commission decided not to renew its approval for the active substance metribuzin (Regulation 2024/2806). European farmers are therefore no longer able to use pesticides containing metribuzin (a herbicide used to control weeds in cereals and a range of horticultural crops).

For an overview of all withdrawals, see Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals and restrictions.

Resources

EFSA (2023) Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance metribuzin. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8140.

Regulation 2024/2806 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance metribuzin.

Sources

Draft 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 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, chlormequat, metribuzin, metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK), terbuthylazine and triclopyr in or on certain products

[Annex V]

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Table & Figures

Table 1
Changes under discussion for maximum residue levels for metribuzin

Food category	Products	Metribuzin (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas	0.1*	0.01*
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.1*	0.01*
Roots and tubers	Cassava roots/manioc	0.2	0.01*
	Potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriacs/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg roots parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips	0.1*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions	0.1*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergine/eggplants, okra/ladies' fingers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn	0.1*	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies	0.1*	0.01*
Leaf vegetables, herbs, edible flowers	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts/shoots, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives	0.1*	0.01*
	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	0.1*	0.02*
	Land cresses	0.5	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with/without pods), peas (with/without pods), lentils	0.1*	0.01*

Continued…

Table 1 Continued (2 of 3)			
Food category	Products	Metribuzin (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Stem vegetables	Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	0.1*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens	0.1*	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes organisms		0.1*	0.01*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, peas, lupins/lupini beans	0.1*	0.01*
Oil seeds	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, soyabeans, cotton seeds	0.1*	0.01*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production	0.2	0.01*
	Oil palms kernels and fruits, kapok	0.1*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat	0.1*	0.01*
Teas		0.1*	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.1*	0.05*
			Continued…

Table 1 Continued (3 of 3)			
Food category	Products	Metribuzin (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Herbal infusions	Chamomile, Hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, strawberry, rooibos, mate/maté, valerian, ginseng	0.1*	0.05*
Cocoa beans		0.1*	0.05*
Carobs		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		0.1*	0.05*
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, cinnamon, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, cloves, capers, saffron, mace	0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots	0.1*	0.01*
Commodities from swine, bovine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, and other farmed terrestrial animals		0.1*	0.01*
Milk		0.1*	0.01*
Bird eggs		0.1*	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products		0.1*	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles		0.1*	0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrates		0.1*	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.1*	0.01*
* Limit of determination. AGRINFO www.agrinfo.eu			

Source: based on PLAN/2025/1086-Rev1 Annex V

Table 2 Changes under discussion for maximum residue levels for metribuzin-DADK	
Food category	Metribuzin-DADK
	New MRL (mg/kg)
Fruits	0.01*
Tree nuts	0.01*
Roots and tubers	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	0.01*
Leaf vegetables	0.01*
Herbs and edible flowers	0.02*
Legume vegetables	0.01*
Stem vegetables	0.01*
Fungi, mosses, and lichens	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes organisms	0.01*
Pulses	0.01*
Oil seeds	0.01*
Oil fruits	0.01*
Cereals	0.01*
Teas	0.05*
Coffee beans	0.05*
Herbal infusions	0.05*
Cocoa beans	0.05*
Carobs	0.05*
Hops	0.05*
Spices	0.05*
Sugar plants	0.01*
Commodities from swine, bovine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, and other farmed terrestrial animals	0.01*
Milk	0.01*
Bird eggs	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles	0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrates	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals	0.01*
* Limit of determination. AGRINFO www.agrinfo.eu	

Source: based on PLAN/2025/1086-Rev1 Annex V

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