Maximum residue levels for napropamide

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EU reduces MRLs for napropamide, with impacts on berries, herbs, and edible flowers

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2609 of 7 October 2024 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for napropamide, pyridaben and tebufenpyrad in or on certain products

Update

The EU has decided to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for napropamide on some products to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). There will be potential impacts on exports of berries, herbs, and edible flowers.

Impacted products

Blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, elderberries, chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon

What is changing?

The EU has amended the MRLs for napropamide as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) reviewed the MRLs for napropamide and found gaps in the data needed to support safe MRLs for certain products. After the applicant provided additional information to address these gaps, most MRLs were maintained. However, EFSA (2023) recommended lowering the MRLs to the LOD on products where the additional information was not sufficient.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **28 April 2025**.

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Products exported before 28 April 2025 that comply with the old MRLs will not be removed from the EU market after April 2025, even if they do not comply with the new MRLs.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of certain berries, herbs, and edible flowers should review their current use of napropamide and evaluate possible alternative solutions in anticipation of 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 (2023) Evaluation of confirmatory data following the Article 12 MRL review for napropamide. EFSA Journal, 21(7): 8125.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2609 as regards maximum residue levels for napropamide, pyridaben and tebufenpyrad in or on certain products

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels for napropamide

Food category	Products	Napropamide (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Berries and small fruits	Blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, elderberries	0.02*	0.01*
Herbs and edible flowers	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	0.05	0.02*

* Limit of determination.

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Source: based on Regulation (EU) 2024/2609

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