

Maximum residue levels for nicotine

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Commission Regulation (EU) [2024/451](#)

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/1536](#)

Commission Regulation (EU) [2023/377](#)

What is changing and why?

After new data on nicotine became available, a risk assessment of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for nicotine was carried out by the European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA 2023](#)). EFSA concluded that for spices (seed, fruit, root, bark, bud, flower pistil, and aril spices) a nicotine MRL of 0.3 mg/kg is safe for consumers. The European Commission therefore reinstated **for all spices** the MRL of **0.3 mg/kg**.

Other changes to nicotine MRLs introduced in 2023 are shown in Table 1. The MRLs for all other products not listed in the table are set to the limit of determination (LOD).

Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of rose hips, herbs and edible flowers, wild fungi, teas, herbal infusions, and spices should maintain – and where necessary increase – systematic monitoring of nicotine.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from 15 September 2023. The Regulation reinstating the higher MRLs on spices entered into force on **26 February 2024**.

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.

Tables & Figures

Table 1 Maximum residue levels for nicotine			
Food category	Products	Nicotine (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Berries and small fruits	Rose hips	0.3	0.2
Herbs and edible flowers	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	0.4	0.1
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Wild fungi	0.04	0.02
Teas		0.6	0.5
Herbal infusions	From flowers, from leaves and herbs, from roots, from any other parts of the plant	0.5	0.3
Spices	Seed spices, fruit spices	0.05*	0.3
	Root and rhizome spices, bud spices, flower pistil spices, aril spices	0.07	0.3
	Bark spices (cinnamon)	0.2	0.3
* Limit of determination.			

Source: Regulation (EU) [2023/377](#); [2023/1536](#); [2024/451](#)

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