Maximum residue levels for nicotine

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/115 as regards maximum residue levels for fluxapyroxad, lambda-cyhalothrin, metalaxyl, and nicotine in or on certain products

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has amended the maximum residue level (MRL) for nicotine on coffee beans to a temporary level of 0.05 mg/kg, based on monitoring data and a recommendation from the EU Reference Laboratory to account for residues from non-pesticide sources.

Previously, after new data on nicotine became available, a risk assessment of MRLs for nicotine was carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). 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. So for all spices the European Commission has reinstated 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, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods).

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.

Monitoring data for nicotine residues on rose hips, herbs, edible flowers, teas, herbal infusions, and spices must be submitted to the EU by **22 February 2030** to be considered during the MRL review process. For fresh wild fungi, the deadline for submitting monitoring data is **30 June 2025**, and for dried wild mushrooms, it is **25 July 2029**.

EFSA's Data collection webpage gives detailed guidance on how to submit data to the European Food Safety Authority.

Timeline

The new MRL for nicotine on coffee applies from **11 February 2025**.

The revised MRL for nicotine on spices entered into force on 26 February 2024.

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The MRLs for nicotine approved in 2023 have applied since 15 September 2023.

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
Coffee		0.01*	0.05*
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.

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Source: based on Regulations 2023/377, 2023/1536, 2024/451, 2025/115

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