Maximum residue levels for novaluron

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EU reduces MRLs for novaluron to 0.01–0.1 mg/kg on all products, with implications for fruit, vegetables and animal products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/466 of 3 March 2023 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 isoxaben, novaluron and tetraconazole in or on certain products

Update

The EU has reduced the MRLs for novaluron to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods) on all products, removing the existing MRLs for a range of fruits, vegetables and animal products.

Impacted products

apples, pears, apricots, peaches, cherries, plums, strawberries, blueberries , cranberries, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergines, eggplants, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, broccoli, red mustards, chards/beet leaves, beans (with pods), beans (without pods), beans, cotton seeds, sugar canes, animal products

What is changing?

The amendments to existing novaluron MRLs are set out in Table 1.

In addition, for herbs and edible flowers, the LOD is increased from 0.01 to 0.02 mg/kg; and for teas, coffee, herbal infusions, cocoa and spices, the LOD is increased from 0.02 to 0.05 mg/kg.

Why?

Following a review of novaluron, EFSA (2022) reported that there were data gaps on toxicology, and uncertainties regarding possible endocrine disruptor properties. It was concluded that harmful effects on human health related to novaluron could not be excluded, and all MRLs should be set at the LOD.

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Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **26 September 2023**. For products exported before that date, the old MRLs still apply.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of fruit and vegetables, cotton seeds, sugarcane and animal products should check the current use of novaluron on these products and seek alternative solutions.

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 (2022) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for novaluron according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal, 20(1): 7041.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/466

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1 Maximum residue levels for novaluron			
Food category	Products	Novaluron[a] (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Pome fruits	Apples	2	0.01*
	Pears	3	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	2	0.01*
	Cherries	7	0.01*
	Plums	1.5	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Strawberries	0.5	0.01*
	Blueberries, cranberries	7	0.01*
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes	0.2	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	1	0.01*
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.6	0.01*
	Aubergines/eggplants	0.5	0.01*
	Melons, pumpkins, watermelons	0.2	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli	0.6	0.01*
Leaf vegetables	Red mustards	25	0.01*
	Chards/beet leaves	15	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with pods), beans (without pods)	0.7	0.01*
Pulses	Beans	0.1	0.01*
Oilseeds	Cotton seeds	0.5	0.01*
Sugar plants	Sugar canes	0.5	0.01*
Products of animal origin:			
Swine/bovine/sheep/goat/ equine/other farmed terrestrial animals	Muscle	10	0.02*
	Fat	10	0.1*
	Liver, kidney, edible offals	0.7	0.05*
Poultry	Muscle	0.5	0.02*
	Fat	0.5	0.1*
	Liver, kidney, edible offals	0.1	0.05*
Milk	All	0.4	0.02*
Bird eggs	All	0.1	0.01*

a Sum of constituent isomers.
* Limit of determination.

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Source: based on Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/466 and SANTE/10108/2022

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