Maximum residue levels for oxyfluorfen

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EU publishes Regulation reducing MRLs for oxyfluorfen on apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, table grapes/wine grapes, table olives from February 2023

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1321 of 25 July 2022 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for fluoride ion, oxyfluorfen, pyroxsulam, quinmerac and sulfuryl fluoride in or on certain products

Update

Commission Regulation 2022/1321 published on 25 July reduces existing MRLs for apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, table grapes/ wine grapes, and table olives, and reduces the limit of determination to 0.01 mg/kg for many products from February 2023.

Impacted products

apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, table grapes/wine grapes, table olives

What is changing?

The changes to MRLs are summarised in Table 1.

In addition, the limit of determination for many products is decreased from 0.05 to 0.01 mg/kg.

Why?

Following its review of existing oxyfluorfen MRLs, EFSA (2020) recommended lowering existing MRLs for several foodstuffs, but maintaining existing MRLs for others.

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Timeline

New MRLs will apply from 21 February 2023. Where products are exported in compliance with the old MRLs before 21 February 2023, these products may stay on the market after this date, even where not compliant with new MRLs.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, table grapes/ wine grapes, table olives should evaluate the use of oxyfluorfen 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 (2020) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for oxyfluorfen according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal, 18(10): 6269.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1321

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Maximum residue levels for oxyfluorfen

Food category	Products	Oxyfluorfen (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars	0.1	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, cherries, peaches	0.1	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes/ wine grapes	0.1	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Table olives	1	0.01*

* Limit of determination.
Source: based on Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1321

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