

Maximum residue levels for penconazole

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EU proposes to amend penconazole MRLs, with impacts on apricots, peaches, and grapes

Draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for fenbuconazole and penconazole in or on certain products

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Update

The EU has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intends to amend the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for penconazole ([G/SPS/N/EU/780](#)). The most significant impacts would potentially be on exports of apricots, peaches, and grapes.

Impacted products

Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars, apricots, peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, blackberries, raspberries (red and yellow)

What is changing?

The EU proposes to amend the MRLs for penconazole as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

The MRLs for penconazole were re-evaluated and adjusted after new trials addressed data gaps identified by [EFSA \(2017\)](#). [EFSA \(2023\)](#) concluded that higher MRLs on pome fruits, plums, blackberries, and raspberries are safe, and that the MRLs for this substance can be maintained on cherries, gooseberries, tomatoes, aubergines, pumpkins, and watermelons, with no risk to consumers.

On certain other products, including apricots, peaches, and table and wine grapes, EFSA has recommended lower MRLs.

Timeline

Expected date of adoption: January 2025.

The new MRLs will apply from approximately **July 2025** – the precise date will be known once the Regulation is published.

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

Recommended Actions

Suppliers of apricots, peaches, and grapes should review their use of penconazole and assess whether any changes will be needed to existing good agricultural practices (GAP).

Authorities in countries that are members of the WTO can provide feedback on the EU's proposal ([G/SPS/N/EU/780](#)) by emailing the [EU SPS Enquiry Point](#) until **31 August 2024**.

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 (2017) [Review of the existing maximum residue levels for penconazole according to Article 12 of Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005](#). *EFSA Journal*, 15(6):4853.

EFSA (2023) [Evaluation of confirmatory data following the Article 12 MRL review and modification of the existing maximum residue levels for penconazole in various crops](#). *EFSA Journal*, 21(3):7889.

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for fenbuconazole and penconazole in or on certain products

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Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for penconazole			
Food category	Products	Penconazole (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars	0.15	0.3
	Loquats/Japanese medlars	0.07	0.3
Stone fruits	Apricots	0.08	0.07
	Peaches	0.15	0.07
	Plums	0.09	0.15
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	0.5	0.4
	Blackberries, raspberries (red and yellow)	0.1	0.4

Source: [PLAN/2024/23 v3](#)

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