Maximum residue levels for profenofos

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EU proposes reducing MRLs for profenofos, with particular impacts on mangoes, tomatoes, cotton seeds, spices, and animal products

Draft Commission Regulation 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 azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products

Draft Annexes (with amendments to Annex II and Annex IIIB)

Update

The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a draft proposal to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for profenofos on **mangoes, tomatoes, cotton seeds, certain spices (fruit spices, coriander, cumin, fennel, cardamom)**, and **animal products** to the limit of determination (LOD) of 0.01–0.05 mg/kg (G/SPS/N/EU/959). A reduction of current LODs on other products is also proposed. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

Impacted products

Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, mangoes, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions, tomatoes, cotton seeds, linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, soyabeans, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, olives for oil production, oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok, coriander, fennel, cumin, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn, vanilla, tamarind, cardamom, animal products

What is changing?

The EU proposes to reduce the MRLs for profenofos as summarised in Table 1.

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Why?

The MRLs for profenofos that have been in place since the adoption of Regulation 396/2005 have never been reviewed. Following a series of evaluations and stakeholder consultations (see EFSA invites submission of data to support review of certain MRLs), the European Food Safety Authority was not able to conclude a risk assessment and establish toxicological reference values due to inadequate data (EFSA 2023).

Timeline

The proposed new MRLs are expected to apply from September 2027.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of mangoes, tomatoes, cotton seeds, coriander, cumin, fennel, fruit spices, cardamom, and animal products should review their existing use of profenofos and start to look for alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

The WTO consultation on this proposal closed on 25 August 2026.

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.

For further information on the EU's process and principles for setting MRLs, see Regulation of pesticide residues in the EU - Questions and Answers.

Resources

EFSA (2023) Targeted review of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for profenofos. EFSA Journal, 21(12): e8445.

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Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products

Draft Annexes (with amendments to Annex II and Annex V)

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Tables & Figures

Table 1: Proposed changes to maximum residue levels for profenofos

Food category	Products	Profenofos (mg/kg)	
		Current MRL	Proposed MRL
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, other tree nuts	0.02*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruit	Mangoes	0.2	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions, other bulb vegetables	0.02*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	10	0.01*
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, soyabeans, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, other oilseeds	0.02*	0.01*
	Cotton seeds	3	0.01*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, other oil fruits	0.02*	0.01*
Spices	Coriander, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, horseradish	0.05	0.01*
	Coriander, fennel	0.1	0.05*
	Cumin	5	0.05*
	Allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn, vanilla, tamarind	0.07	0.05*
	Cardamom	3	0.05*

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Food category	Products	Profenofos (mg/kg)	
Products of animal origin	Swine, cattle, sheep, goat, horse, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals (muscle, fat, liver, kidney, edible offals)	0.05	0.01*
Birds' eggs	Chicken, duck, geese, quail, other birds' eggs	0.02*	0.01*

* Limit of determination (LOD).

Source: based on Draft Annexes (with amendments to Annex II and Annex IIIB)

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