

Maximum residue levels for profenofos

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EU discusses reduction of profenofos MRLs, 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 V](#))

Update

The European Union (EU) is discussing reducing 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 0.01–0.02 mg/kg. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.) A reduction of current LODs on other products is also proposed.

Impacted products

Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, mangoes, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions, 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, anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, dill, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn, vanilla, tamarind, cardamom, cinnamon, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, cloves, capers, saffron, mace, animal products

What is changing?

The EU is discussing the reduction of MRLs for profenofos as summarised in Table 1.

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

This Regulation is still under discussion. It is expected that new MRLs will apply from mid-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 seek alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

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.

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


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Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes under discussion for profenofos maximum residue levels ^[1]			
Food category	Products	Profenofos (mg/kg)	
		Existing MRL	Proposed MRL
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.02*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruit	Mangoes	0.2	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions, Welsh onions	0.02*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	10	0.01*
Oilseeds	Cotton seeds	3	0.01*
	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, soyabeans, castor beans, seeds of: poppy, sesame, sunflower, canola, mustard, pumpkin, safflower, borage, gold of pleasure, hemp	0.02*	0.01*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production, oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok	0.02*	0.01*
Teas		0.05*	0.02*
Spices	Coriander, fennel	0.1	0.02*
	Cumin	5	0.02*
	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, dill, fenugreek, nutmeg	0.05*	0.02*
	Allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn, vanilla, tamarind	0.07	0.02*
	Cardamom	3	0.02*
	Cinnamon, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, cloves, capers, saffron, mace	0.05*	0.02*
Products of animal origin	Swine, cattle, sheep, goat, horse, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals	0.05	0.01*
	Birds' eggs	0.02*	0.01*

1. For products not listed here, no changes are proposed.
* Limit of determination (LOD).


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