Maximum residue levels for spinosad

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EU publishes Regulation reducing MRLs for spinosad on sweet peppers/bell peppers, lettuce and other salad vegetables from February 2023

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1406 of 3 August 2022 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 methoxyfenozide, propoxur, spinosad and thiram in or on certain products

Update

Commission Regulation 2022/1406, published on 18 August, reduces MRLs for spinosad on sweet peppers/bell peppers, lettuce, escaroles/broadleaved endives, spinach, chards/beet leaves and witloofs/Belgian endives from February 2023.

Impacted products

sweet peppers, bell peppers, lettuces, escaroles, broadleaved endives, spinaches, chards, beet leaves, witloofs, Belgian endives

What is changing?

The MRLs have been amended for the products listed in Table 1.

Why?

Following the establishment for the first time of an acute reference dose (ARfD) for spinosad, EFSA (2021) re-evaluated the potential risks to consumers associated with current MRLs, and identified risks for a number of vegetables. Alternative fall-back good agricultural practices were identified by Member States and lower MRLs were recommended accordingly.

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Timeline

New MRLs will apply from 28 February 2023. Products lawfully placed on the EU market in compliance with old MRLs before 28 February may remain on the market after that date, even where not compliant with the new MRLs.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU of sweet peppers/bell peppers, lettuce, escaroles/broadleaved endives, spinach and chards/beet leaves must ensure that good agricultural practices are amended to meet the new MRLs .

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 (2021) Focussed assessment of certain existing MRLs of concern for spinosad. EFSA Journal,19(2): 6404.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1406

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Maximum residue levels for spinosad

Food category	Products	Spinosad[1] (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Fruiting vegetables	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	2	0.6
Leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers	Lettuces	10	4
Brassica vegetables	Escaroles/broadleaved endives	10	3
	Spinaches, chards/beet leaves	15	4
	Witloofs/Belgian endives	10	0.02*

1 Sum of spinosyn A and spinosyn D.
* Limit of determination.
Source: based on Commission Regulation 2022/1406



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