

Maximum residue levels for spirodiclofen

Published by AGRINFO on 31 Jan 2024; Revised 30 Sep 2024

Parliament rejects proposal to amend spirodiclofen MRLs

Draft Commission Regulation 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 cyproconazole and spirodiclofen in or on certain products

Update

In September 2024, the European Parliament rejected a Commission Regulation that proposed to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for spirodiclofen on certain products to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). See [Maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, cyproconazole, and spirodiclofen](#).

The Parliament has requested the Commission to withdraw its draft Regulation and present a new one, setting the MRLs for spirodiclofen on **all products** to the LOD.

Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, macadamias, pecans, pistachios, walnuts, table grapes, cranberries, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries, avocados, mangoes, papayas, bananas, cucumbers, gherkins

What is changing?

The EU proposed to amend the MRLs for spirodiclofen as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

Spirodiclofen is no longer authorised in the EU because the manufacturer has not submitted a new application for approval. Therefore all MRLs should be set at the LOD.

However, some products for which Codex MRLs (CXLs) and import tolerances are set have been reviewed by [EFSA \(2021\)](#), which concluded that they present no health risks for the

Timeline

The European Parliament's objection prevents the Commission from adopting the proposed draft Regulation, which means that the existing MRLs for spirodiclofen continue to apply.

Background

In January 2024, the EU informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intended to reduce the MRLs for spirodiclofen ([G/SPS/N/EU/713](#)) to the LOD. This would apply to all products except those with MRLs based on CXLs or import tolerances, which are considered safe. The most significant impacts would potentially be on exports of certain berries and bananas.

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) [Review of the existing maximum residue levels for spirodiclofen according to Article 12 of Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005](#). EFSA Journal, 19(11): 6908.

Sources

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

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Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for spirodiclofen			
Food category	Products	Spirodiclofen (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruit	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons	0.5	0.4
Tree nuts	Almonds	0.1	0.06
	Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, macadamias, pecans, pistachios, walnuts	0.05	0.06
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes	2	3
	Cranberries, gooseberries	0.8	0.01*
	Rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries	0.1	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Avocados, mangoes, papayas	1	0.9
	Bananas	0.3	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Cucumbers, gherkins	0.1	0.07

* Limit of determination.



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Source: based on [PLAN/2023/1960](#)

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