Maximum residue levels for sulfuryl fluoride

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EU reduces MRLs for sulfuryl fluoride to the limit of determination on all products, removing existing MRLs for all cereals and reducing the MRL for coconuts from February 2023

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1321 of 25 July 2022 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 fluoride ion, oxyfluorfen, pyroxsulam, quinmerac and sulfuryl fluoride in or on certain products

Update

This new Commission Regulation reduces MRLs for sulfuryl fluoride on all products to the limit of determination (LOD), 0.01–0.05 mg/kg, removing existing MRLs for barley, buckwheat and other pseudo-cereals, maize/ corn, common millet/ proso millet, oat, rice, rye, sorghum and wheat, from February 2023.

Impacted products

coconuts, barley, buckwheat, pseudo-cereals, maize, corn, common millet, proso millet, oat, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat

What is changing?

The Commission proposes changes to MRLs as set out in Table 1.

In addition, the LOD is raised from 0.01 to 0.02 mg/kg for herbs and edible flowers; and from 0.02 to 0.05 mg/kg for teas, coffees and herbal infusions.

An MRL of 0.01 mg/kg is introduced for all products of animal origin.

Why?

An EFSA (2021) review of sulfuryl fluoride found that adequate information was not available for all foodstuffs. For those foods for which there were no import tolerances or Codex MRLs, existing MRLs were reduced to the LOD.

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Timeline

New MRLs will apply from 21 February 2023. Where products are exported in compliance with the old MRLs before 21 February, these products may stay on the market after this date, even where not compliant with new MRLs.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of barley, buckwheat and other pseudo-cereals, maize/ corn, common millet/ proso millet, oat, rice, rye, sorghum and wheat should evaluate the use of sulfuryl fluoride on these products.

Suppliers of coconuts should evaluate whether the reduced MRL requires a change in good agricultural practices (GAP).

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) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for sulfuryl fluoride according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal, 19(1): 6390.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1321

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Maximum residue levels for sulfuryl fluoride

Food category	Products	Sulfuryl fluoride (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Tree nuts	Coconuts	10	3
Cocoa beans		0.02*	0.03
Cereals	Barley, buckwheat and other pseudo-cereals, maize/ corn, common millet/ proso millet, oat, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat	0.05	0.01*

* Limit of determination.
Shading indicates a decrease in MRL.
Source: based on Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1321

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