Maximum residue levels for tetraconazole

Published by AGRINFO on 30 Nov 2022; Revised 18 Mar 2023

EU amends MRLs for tetraconazole, with implications for certain fruit, vegetables, oilseeds, cereals, sugar plants and animal products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/466 of 3 March 2023 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 isoxaben, novaluron and tetraconazole in or on certain products

Update

The EU has amended the MRLs for tetraconazole on many products, with implications for certain fruit, vegetables, oilseeds, cereals, sugar plants and animal products.

Impacted products

loquats, Japanese medlars, apricots, peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blueberries, dewberries, raspberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rosehips, mulberries, azaroles, Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, tomatoes, sweet peppers, bell peppers, aubergines, eggplants, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, poppy seeds, barley, oat, wheat, buckwheat, sugar beet roots, chicory roots, animal products

What is changing?

The changes to MRLs are set out in Table 1.

Why?

Following a review of existing tetraconazole MRLs (EFSA 2022), EFSA proposed the reduction of MRLs in a range of fruits, vegetables and products of animal origin. Other MRLs could be maintained or raised on the basis of current good agricultural practices.

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Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **26 September 2023**. For products exported before that date, the old MRLs still apply.

Recommended Actions

The MRLs have been amended (both raised and lowered) on a range of products. Suppliers to the EU market of fruit and vegetables, cotton seeds, sugarcane and animal products should carefully review the changes proposed.

Suppliers of products with MRLs reduced to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods) should seek alternative solutions to tetraconazole.

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 (2022) Review of the existing maximum residue levels for tetraconazole according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA Journal, 20(1): 7111.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/466

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Maximum residue levels for tetraconazole

Food category	Products	Tetraconazole (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Pome fruits	Loquats/ Japanese medlars	0.3	0.2
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	0.1	0.03
	Plums	0.05	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	0.5	0.07
	Strawberries	0.2	0.15
	Blueberries, dewberries, raspberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rosehips, mulberries, azaroles/ Mediterranean medlars, elderberries	0.2	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	0.1	0.15
	Sweet peppers/ bell peppers	0.1	0.01*
	Aubergines/ eggplants	0.02*	0.15
	Cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes	0.2	0.15
	Melons, pumpkins, watermelons	0.05	0.08
Oilseeds	Poppy seeds	0.15	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, oat	0.1	0.01*
	Wheat	0.1	0.02
	Buckwheat and other pseudocereals	0.05	0.01*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots	0.05	0.01*
	Chicory roots	0.05	0.06
Products of animal origin:			
Swine/sheep/goats/other farmed terrestrial animals	Muscle	0.05	0.01*
Swine	Fat	0.5	0.07
	Liver	1	0.7
	Kidney	0.2	0.04
	Other edible offals	0.05	0.7
Bovine/equine	Muscle	0.05	0.015
Bovine	Fat	0.5	0.2
	Liver	1	1.5
	Kidney	0.2	0.06
	Other edible offals	0.5	1.5
Sheep/goats/ other farmed terrestrial animals	Fat	0.5	0.09
Sheep/goats	Liver	1	0.9
Sheep/goats/ other farmed terrestrial animals	Kidney	0.5	0.05
	Other edible offals	0.5	0.9
Equine	Fat	0.5	0.2
	Liver	1	1.5
	Kidney	0.5	0.06
	Other edible offals	0.5	1.5
Poultry	Muscle	0.02	0.015
	Fat	0.2	0.3
	Liver	0.1	0.05
	Kidney	0.05	0.01*
	Other edible offals	0.02*	0.3
Other farmed terrestrial animals	Liver	0.5	0.09
Milk	Cattle/horse	0.05	0.02
	Sheep/goat	0.05	0.01*

* Limit of determination.
Shading indicates decreased MRLs.

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