Maximum residue levels for thiophanate-methyl

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EU reduces thiophanate-methyl MRLs to limit of determination on all products

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1546 of 8 July 2026 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 benomyl, carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

Update

The European Union (EU) has reduced the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for thiophanate-methyl to the limit of determination (LOD) for all products. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

Impacted products

All products

What is changing?

The EU has lowered the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl to 0.01 mg/kg on all products. The changes are summarised in Table 1.

For animal products, thiophanate-methyl was previously included in the definition of carbendazim: “carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl, expressed as carbendazim”. The current Regulation separates out thiophanate-methyl on these products.

Why?

The European Food Safety Authority, in its combined risk assessment for residues of carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl, identified unacceptable risks for the current carbendazim MRLs in grapefruits, oranges, mangoes, and papayas, and for thiophanate-methyl in grapefruits, oranges, mandarins, mangoes, and papayas (EFSA 2024).

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Good agricultural practices (GAPs) are in place in some non-EU countries for plant protection products containing carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl separately, as well as for products containing a mixture of both. The GAPs supporting the import tolerances for citrus fruits are no longer authorised in the EU. GAPs previously submitted for limes are no longer authorised in South Africa.

In addition, there are concerns about the risks of combined residues from carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl on okra/lady's fingers. To ensure a high level of consumer protection, the European Commission decided to lower the MRLs for both substances on okra/lady's fingers to the LOD.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **29 January 2027**.

Products put on the EU market before 29 January 2027 that comply with current EU MRLs may remain on the market after that date, even if residues in the products exceed the new MRLs.

Exception: due to concerns about risks to consumers, grapefruits, oranges, papayas, mandarins, and mangoes that exceed thiophanate-methyl MRLs after 29 January 2027 may not remain on the market, even if they were compliant with current MRLs when put on the market before that date.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of all products should seek chemical and non-chemical alternatives to the use of thiophanate-methyl.

Background

In September 2024, the European Parliament rejected a European Commission Regulation that proposed to reduce the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl to the LOD on all products except limes and okra (see Maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, cyproconazole, and spirodiclofen). The Parliament requested the Commission to withdraw its draft Regulation and present a new one, setting the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl MRL on all products to the LOD.

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.

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Resources

EFSA (2024) Updated reasoned opinion on the toxicological properties and maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the benzimidazole substances carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl. EFSA Journal, 22(2): e8569.

European Commission (2025a) Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues, 17–18 February 2025. Summary Report.

European Commission (2025b) Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues, 23–24 June 2025. Agenda.

Sources

Regulation (EU) 2026/1546 as regards maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels for thiophanate-methyl

Food category	Products	Thiophanate-methyl (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins	6	0.01*
	Other citrus fruits	0.1*	0.01*
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, other tree nuts	0.2*	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces	0.5	0.01*
	Medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	2	0.01*
	Other pome fruits	0.5	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	2	0.01*
	Cherries (sweet), plums	0.3	0.01*
	Other stone fruits	0.1*	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes	0.1*	0.01*
	Wine grapes	3	0.01*
	Strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), other cane fruits, blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/ Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, other berries	0.1*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruit	Dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, other fruits (edible peel), kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, other small fruits (inedible peel), avocados, bananas	0.1*	0.01*
	Mangoes, papayas	1	0.01*
	Granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas, other large fruits (inedible peel)	0.1*	0.01*
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, other tropical roots/tubers, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, other roots/tubers	0.1*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions, other bulb vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	1	0.01*
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers, other *Solanaceae*, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, other curcurbits (edible peel), sweet corn, other fruiting vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
	Melons, watermelons, other curcurbits (inedible peel)	0.3	0.01*
	Pumpkins	0.5	0.01*
	Aubergines/eggplants	2	0.01*
	Okra/lady's fingers	1	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, other flowering brassicas, head cabbages, other head brassicas, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabis, other leafy brassicas	0.1*	0.01*
	Brussels sprouts	1	0.01*

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Table 1 Continued			
Food category	Products	Thiophanate-methyl (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Leaf vegetables	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/ broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, other lettuces, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, other spinaches, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/ Belgian endives	0.1*	0.01*
Herbs and edible flowers	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/ bay leaves, tarragon, other herbs and edible flowers	0.1*	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with pods), peas (with pods)	0.1*	0.01*
	Beans (without pods), peas (without pods), lentils, other legume vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, other stem vegetables	0.1*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens	0.1*	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes	Algae and prokaryotes	0.1	0.01*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, peas, lupins/lupini beans, other pulses	0.1*	0.01*
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, cotton seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, other oilseeds	0.1*	0.01*
	Soyabeans	0.3	0.01*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, other oil fruits	0.1*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, oats	0.3	0.01*
	Rye, wheat	0.05	0.01*
Teas		0.1*	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.1*	0.05*
Herbal infusions	Chamomile, hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, other flower infusions, strawberry, rooibos, mate/maté, other leaves/herb infusions, valerian, ginseng, other root infusions	0.1*	0.05*
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Source: based on Regulation 2026/1546

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Table 1 Continued			
Food category	Products	Thiophanate-methyl (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Cocoa beans		0.1*	0.05*
Carobs/Saint John's breads		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		0.1*	0.05*
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, other seed spices, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, other fruit spices, cinnamon, other bark spices, liquorice, ginger, turmeric/curcuma, horseradish, other root/rhizome spices, cloves, capers, other bud spices, saffron, other flower pistil spices, mace, other aril spices	0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots, other sugar plants	0.1*	0.01*
Products of animal origin:			
Swine/cattle/ sheep/goat/horse/p oultry/other farmed terrestrial animals	Muscle, fat, liver, kidney, edible offals (other than liver and kidney), other products	0.05*	0.01*
Milk	Cattle, sheep, goat, horse, other milks	0.05*	0.01*
Birds' eggs	Chicken, duck, geese, quail, other birds' eggs	0.05*	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products		1	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles		0.05*	0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*

* Limit of determination (LOD).

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