Maximum residue levels for thiophanate-methyl

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Parliament rejects Commission proposal to amend MRLs for thiophanate-methyl

Draft Commission Regulation 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

Annex II

Update

In September 2024, the European Parliament rejected a Commission Regulation that proposed to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for thiophanate-methyl to the limit of determination (LOD) on all products except limes and okra. (The LOD is 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 thiophanate-methyl on **all products** to the LOD.

Impacted products

Citrus fruits, grapefruits, oranges, lemons, mandarins, limes, tree nuts, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/ cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, pome fruits, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/ Japanese medlars, stone fruits, apricots, peaches, cherries, plums, tables grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries, mangoes, papayas, garlic, onions, shallots, tomatoes, sweet peppers/ bell peppers, aubergines/ eggplants, okra, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, sweet corn, melons, watermelons, pumpkin, brassica vegetables, broccoli, cauliflowers, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages, kales, Brussels sprouts, peas, beans, lentils, 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, soyabeans, barley, oat, rye, wheat, commodities from swine, bovine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry and other farmed terrestrial mammals, milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse), bird eggs, honey, amphibians and reptiles, stem vegetables, fungi, mosses and lichens, pulses, oil fruits, teas, coffees, herbal infusions, cocoa, carobs, hops, spices, sugar plants

What is changing?

The European Commission proposed to reduce the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

Thiophanate-methyl is no longer authorised in the EU because the manufacturer withdrew its new application for approval. Therefore MRLs should be set to the LOD, except on certain products that are considered safe.

EFSA (2021) has suggested increasing the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl on limes, aligning with good agricultural practices (GAP) observed in certain non-EU countries. EFSA also recommends establishing a lower MRL deemed safe for thiophanate-methyl on okra/ lady's fingers, also derived from the GAP in non-EU countries.

Timeline

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

Background

The European Commission informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intended to set the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl to the LOD. This could have an impact on suppliers of a wide range of products including fruit, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, cereals, teas, spices, and sugar. Exceptions were proposed for limes and okra because EFSA considers that amended MRLs based on GAP in non-EU countries are safe (G/SPS/N/EU/696).

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) Reasoned opinion on the toxicological properties and maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the benzimidazole substances carbendazim and thiophanate■methyl. EFSA Journal, 19(8): 6773.

Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim and thiophanate■methyl in or on certain products

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

Table & 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, mandarins	6	0.01*
	Limes	6	7
Tree nuts		0.2*	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces	0.5	0.01*
	Medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	2	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	2	0.01*
	Cherries, plums	0.3	0.01*
Berries and other small fruits	Table grapes	0.1*	0.01*
	Wine grapes	3	0.01*
	Strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, azaroles, elderberries	0.1*	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits (green, red, yellow), litchis/lychees, passionfruits/ maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas	0.1*	0.01*
	Mangoes, papayas	1	0.01*
Root and tuber vegetables		0.1*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots	0.1*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	1	0.01*
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.1*	0.01*
	Aubergines/eggplants	2	0.01*
	Okra	1	0.9
	Cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, sweet corn	0.1*	0.01*
	Melons, watermelons	0.3	0.01*
	Pumpkin	0.5	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages, kales	0.1*	0.01*
	Brussels sprouts	1	0.01*
Leaf vegetables		0.1*	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Peas, beans, lentils	0.1*	0.01*
Stem vegetables		0.1*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses and lichens		0.1*	0.01*
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	0.1*	0.01*
	Soyabeans	0.3	0.01*
Oil fruits		0.1*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, oat	0.3	0.01*
	Rye, wheat	0.05	0.01*
Teas, coffee, herbal infusions, cocoa and carobs		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		0.1*	0.05*
Spices		0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants		0.1*	0.05*
Products of animal origin	Commodities from swine, cattle, sheep, goat, equine, poultry and other farmed terrestrial mammals	0.05*	0.01*
	Milk (cattle, sheep, goat, horse)	0.05*	0.01*
	Bird eggs	0.05*	0.01*
	Honey	1	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles, terrestrial invertebrates, wild terrestrial vertebrates		0.05*	0.01*

* Limit of determination.

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Source: based on PLAN/2022/2853

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