

Maximum residue levels for thiophanate-methyl

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EU proposes to reduce MRLs for thiophanate-methyl on all products except limes and okra

[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

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intends to set the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for thiophanate-methyl to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). This could have an impact on suppliers of a wide range of products, including fruit, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, cereals, teas, spices, and sugar. There are exceptions for limes and okra because the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) considers that amended MRLs based on good agricultural practices (GAP) in non-EU countries are safe ([G/SPS/N/EU/696](#)).

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, table 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 EU proposes 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 \(2021\)](#) suggests increasing the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl on limes, aligning with safe agricultural practices 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

Expected date of publication: July 2024.

The new MRLs are expected to apply from **early 2025**.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers of affected products should review their current use of thiophanate-methyl and look for possible alternative solutions in anticipation of these MRL changes.

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) [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

[Annex II](#)

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.

Source: based on [PLAN/2022/2853](#)

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