Maximum residue limits for azocyclotin and cyhexatin

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EU proposes to reduce MRLs for azocyclotin and cyhexatin on apples, oranges, and grapes to 0.01 mg/kg

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 azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products

Draft Annex V

Update

The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a draft proposal to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for azocyclotin and cyhexatin to the limit of determination (LOD) of 0.01 mg/kg on apples, oranges, and wine grapes (G/SPS/N/EU/959). (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

Impacted products

Oranges, apples, wine grapes, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions

What is changing?

The EU proposes to reduce the MRLs for azocyclotin and cyhexatin (sum of azocyclotin and cyhexatin expressed as cyhexatin) on apples, oranges, and wine grapes.

The EU also proposes to reduce the current LODs on bulb vegetables, and to increase the LOD on honey and other apiculture products from 0.01 to 0.05 mg/kg.

The proposed changes are summarised in Table 1.

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Why?

The use of azocyclotin and cyhexatin has never been approved for use within the EU, and the MRLs for imported produce that have been in place since the adoption of Regulation 396/2005 have never been reviewed. Following a series of evaluations and a stakeholder consultation (see EFSA invites submission of data to support review of certain MRLs), the European Food Safety Authority was not able to complete a risk assessment as it could not establish toxicological reference values (EFSA 2023).

Timeline

The proposed new MRLs are expected to apply from September 2027.

Recommended Actions

Suppliers of apples, oranges, and grapes to the EU market should review their existing use of azocyclotin and cyhexatin, and start to look for alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

The WTO consultation on this proposal closed on 25 August 2026.

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.

For further information on the EU's process and principles for setting MRLs, see Regulation of pesticide residues in the EU - Questions and Answers.

Resources

EFSA (2023) Targeted review of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for azocyclotin and cyhexatin. EFSA Journal, 21(6): 8038.

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Sources

Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, diazinon, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos in or on certain products

Draft Annex V

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Tables & Figures

Table 1: Proposed changes to maximum residue levels for azocyclotin and cyhexatin

Food category	Products	Azocyclotin and cyhexatin (mg/kg) [1]	
		Existing MRL	Proposed MRL
Citrus fruits	Oranges	0.2	0.01*
Pome fruits	Apples	0.2	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Wine grapes	0.3	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions	0.02*	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products		0.01*	0.05*

1. Sum of azocyclotin and cyhexatin expressed as cyhexatin.
* Limit of determination (LOD).

Source: based on Draft Annex V

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