Mepanipyrim: non-renewal of EU approval

Published by AGRINFO on 10 Jan 2024; Revised 10 May 2024

EU proposes not to renew approval of the active substance mepanipyrim

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance mepanipyrim, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011

Update

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it does not intend to renew approval of the active substance mepanipyrim (G/SPS/N/EU/705). This is due to concerns about long-term risks for wild mammals, and the substance's endocrine disrupting properties for humans and mammals. This will oblige EU Member States to withdraw authorisations for products containing mepanipyrim. The non-renewal is expected to lead to a reduction in mepanipyrim maximum residue levels (MRLs) to 0.01–0.05 mg/kg on all products in 2025. This decision could have an impact on exports of certain fruit and vegetable products.

Impacted products

Grapes, strawberries, blackberries, raspeberries, tomatoes, sweet peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, courgettes

What is changing?

The European Commission proposes not to renew its approval for the active substance mepanipyrim. EU farmers will therefore no longer be able to use products containing this active substance.

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Why?

Following an application for the renewal of approval of mepanipyrim in 2017 and a first evaluation in that year by the European Food Safety Authority, the Commission requested EFSA to reassess information on the endocrine disrupting properties of this active substance. EFSA (2023) identified long-term risks for wild mammals, and concerns regarding the substance's endocrine disrupting properties for humans and mammals. The necessary approval criteria were not satisfied and renewal was not granted.

Timeline

Expected date of entry into force: second quarter of 2024.

EU producers will be permitted to use stocks of products containing mepanipyrim until approximately the second quarter of 2025.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Following the non-renewal or withdrawal of approvals for pesticide active substances, the EU starts the process of lowering or removing the MRLs. These are typically set at 0.01 mg/kg or the limit of analytical determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). In most circumstances this means that they can no longer be used on crops for export to the EU. Exporting countries should start to look for alternative solutions to mepanipyrim or consider a request for EU import tolerances.

Recommended Actions

As the EU MRLs for mepanipyrim are likely to be reduced, suppliers of certain fruits and vegetables (grapes, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, tomatoes, sweet peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, and courgettes) currently using mepanipyrim on crops for export to the EU should review their current good agricultural practices (GAP) and start to look for alternative solutions.

Feedback on this proposal to the WTO closed on 16 February 2024.

Background

For further information on recent non-renewals and withdrawal of substances, see Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals and restrictions.

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Resources

EFSA (2023) Updated peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance mepanipyrim. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8196.

Sources

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