Metribuzin approval not renewed by EU

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Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2806 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance metribuzin

What is changing and why?

The active substance metribuzin is no longer approved in the EU because the European Food Safety Authority has identified several concerns, particularly endocrine-disrupting properties that may cause adverse effects in humans, and that pose a high risk to bees.

EU decisions not to renew or withdraw approvals for pesticide active substances primarily impact EU producers. However, following the non-renewal or withdrawal of approvals for pesticide active substances, the EU starts the process of lowering or removing the MRLs. In the case of metribuzin, MRLs are already set for most products at the LOD. However, MRLs are currently still in place for cassava, land cresses, and olives for oil production, and these are likely be lowered. In most circumstances this will mean that metribuzin can no longer be used on these crops for export to the EU. Exporting countries should start to look for alternative solutions to metribuzin or consider a request for EU import tolerances.

Actions

Suppliers of cassava, land cresses, and olives currently using metribuzin should review current agricultural practices and start to seek alternative solutions.

Timeline

Date of entry into force: **24 November 2024**.

Existing EU Member State authorisations of products containing metribuzin will need to be withdrawn within 6 months of the Regulation's entry into force. EU producers will be permitted to use stocks of products up to 24 November 2025. A revision of metribuzin MRLs is expected for 2026.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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