

MRL removed for 17 β -oestradiol in food of animal origin

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EU removes the MRL for 17 β -oestradiol in food of animal origin

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/860](#) of 18 March 2024 amending Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 17 β -oestradiol

Update

The European Union has removed the maximum residue limit (MRL) for 17 β -oestradiol, including for therapeutic and zootechnical use in mammals.

Impacted products

Food-producing mammals

What is changing?

Regulation [37/2010](#) sets the MRLs accepted in foods of animal origin. 17 β -oestradiol was allowed in mammals only for therapeutic and zootechnical (to improve the genetics of breeding animals) purposes. That authorisation is now removed.

Why?

This change aligns Regulation 37/2010 with Directive [96/22](#), which bans 17 β -oestradiol use in food-producing animals.

Timeline

Applies from **8 April 2024**.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Food from mammals exported to the EU must not contain 17 β -oestradiol. The use of 17 β -oestradiol is not allowed in food-producing animals, including for therapeutic and zootechnical use.

Recommended Actions

Food from mammals exported to the EU must not contain 17 β -oestradiol. Competent authorities and producers in non-EU countries where 17 β -oestradiol may be used for therapeutic and zootechnical purposes should ensure that alternative treatment is given using permitted substances (see [Official controls of veterinary drug residues in products of animal origin](#)).

Background

Regulation [37/2010](#) sets the MRLs of pharmacologically active substances accepted in food of animal origin. Any substances that is not specifically mentioned in this regulation for the uses described, cannot be used in food-producing animals.

Resources

European Commission (2023) [Control plans for residues of veterinary medicines, pesticides and contaminants](#)

European Commission [Residues of veterinary medicinal products](#)

Directive [96/22](#)

Sources

Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/860](#)

Regulation [37/2010](#)

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