S-metolachlor: Non renewal of EU approval

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EU decides not to renew approval of the active substance S-metolachlor

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/20 of 12 December 2023 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance S-metolachlor, 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 decided not to renew approval of the active substance S-metolachlor. This is due to concerns about contamination of groundwater and risks to mammals. This will oblige EU Member States to ban the use of products containing S-metolachlor. This decision should have no immediate impact on products exported from non-EU countries.

Impacted products

All products treated with S-metolachlor

What is changing?

The European Commission has decided not to renew its approval for the active substance S-metolachlor. EU farmers will no longer be able to use products containing this active substance.

Why?

Following an application for the renewal of approval of S-metolachlor, EFSA (2023) identified concerns regarding mammalian health and groundwater contamination. The necessary approval criteria were not satisfied, and renewal was not granted.

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Timeline

This Regulation entered into force on 23 January 2024.

EU producers will be permitted to use stocks of products containing S-metolachlor until 23 July 2024.

Recommended Actions

Maximum residue limits (MRLs) for S-metolachlor are already set at the limit of determination (LOD – the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods). Suppliers exporting to the EU may continue to use S-metolachlor provided residues do not exceed existing MRLs (0.01–0.05 mg/kg).

Background

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

Resources

EFSA (2023) Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance S-metolachlor excluding the assessment of the endocrine disrupting properties. EFSA Journal, 21(2): 7852.

Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/20 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance S-metolachlor

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