

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.

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-renewal 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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