

Embassy of India

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

Pesticide Monitoring

Newsletter

September - October 2024

For each active substance, the relevant export promotion bodies have been mentioned for their action on analyizing the implications of the new MRL's and desimination of these MRL's to relevant stakeholders such as farmers, traders, exporters, private companies etc.

A. EU Updates on Pesticides

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I. Renewal of approval

The renewal of approval of an active substance refers to the regulatory process by which authorities review and decide whether to extend the approval of a chemical substance for another period of time.

Captan¹ is a fungicide widely used on fruit and other crops such as apples, apricots, blueberries, blackberries, cherries, grapes, raspberries, nectarines, plums, peaches; almonds; grasses: hops. EFSA's² comprehensive review of captan's toxicological data found no evidence of hormonal interference or adverse effects on endocrine-related processes, supporting its continued use under current regulatory frameworks. Action:APEDA

Expiration of approval: 31 October 2039

Folpet³ is a protective, broad-spectrum fungicide approved by EFSA for use on crops such as apples, cherries, berries, wine grapes, tomatoes, cereals, and ornamental plants like roses. It acts on the plant surface to control fungal pathogens

without penetrating tissues, reducing residue concerns. Folpet's approval reflects its efficacy and compliance with safety standards. EFSA's⁴ evaluation supports its use in integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, ensuring sustainable protection against fungal diseases when applied according to guidelines. Action:APEDA

Expiration of approval: 31 October 2039

Metrafenone⁵ is a fungicide used to control fungal diseases in cereals and grapes. Approved for crops such as wheat, barley, oats, rye, triticale, and grapes, it offers effective disease management to support healthy yields. EFSA's⁶ evaluation confirmed its safety and efficacy. Metrafenone is recommended for use within integrated pest management (IPM) systems to minimize resistance development and ensure sustainable application. Action:APEDA

Expiration of approval: 31 October 2039

II. Non-approval of a basic substance:

The non-approval of a basic substance according to EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) indicates that a specific substance intended for use in plant protection or related purposes has been evaluated and found not to meet the human and animal safety, efficacy, environmental sustainability, or Residue Levels.

Eggshell powder⁷ is a substance derived from waste poultry eggshells. While it has no pesticidal activity, it is used as a fungifuge, primarily applied on grapevines. Regarding human health, EFSA identified a potential concern due to the lead content specified by the applicant. Dietary exposure estimates indicate a possible risk of neurodevelopmental effects, particularly for high consumers of table grapes (children) and wine grapes (adults). As a result, EFSA⁸ concluded that the intended use of eggshell powder with the proposed lead specification cannot be considered safe. [Action:APEDA]

III. Extension of the approval periods of the active substances

The European Commission has extended the approval periods for several active substances used in plant protection products. This extension ensures the continued availability of these substances while their safety and environmental impact assessments are updated.

Extension of the approval periods of the active substances⁹ acequinocyl, aluminium silicate, emamectin, fatty acids C7 to C20, pendimethalin, plant oils / rape seed oil and triclopyr.

Active substance	Commodities	Approval period extended till
Acequinocyl (acaricide, insecticide)	Greenhouse crops; Ornamentals; Nursery crops; Fruits including strawberries, apples, pears, apricots, plums, grapes, citrus; Tree nuts; Pistachios Action: APEDA	15-11-2026
Aluminium silicate (insecticide)	Fruit including apples, pears, plums, grapes, cherries, berries; Row field crops [Action:APEDA]	31-03-2026
Emamectin (fungicide)	Fruit trees; Leafy crops including lettuce, brassicas Action:APEDA	15-11-2026
Fatty acids C7 to C20 (herbicide)	Fruit Action: APEDA	01-12-2026
Pendimethalin (herbicide)	Wheat & other small grain cereals; Corn; Soybeans; Maize; Fruit; Vegetables including beans & peas, carrots; Turf & lawns; Potatoes; Vineyards; Peanuts <u>Action:APEDA</u>	15-01-2027
Plant oils / rapeseed oil (insecticide, Acaricide)	Ornamentals; Glasshouse crops; Fruit including apples, pears Action: APEDA	31-03-2026
Triclopyr (herbicide)	Uncultivated areas; Grassland; Plantations; Rangeland; Right-of-way; Industrial sites; Ornamental turf; Rice [Action:APEDA]	31-03-2026

IV. Change in MRL of active substances

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) refer to the highest levels of pesticide residues legally allowed in or on food and feed products, based on what is considered safe for human consumption. Changes in MRLs can happen for various reasons, and these adjustments can impact agricultural practices, food imports, and exports. The changes in MRLs for active substances follow a structured regulatory review process, led by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2640¹⁰ of 9 October 2024:

1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene¹¹ is a growth inhibitor primarily used on potatoes and certain animal products. Based on risk assessment results, EFSA concluded that short-term and long-term intake of residues from its use in reported agricultural practices is unlikely to pose a risk to consumer health. The Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) have been revised as follows: potatoes at 20 mg/kg (increased from 15 mg/kg), swine fat at 0.3 mg/kg, other animal products ranging from 0.03 mg/kg to 3 mg/kg, bird eggs at 0.4 mg/kg, and milk at 0.3 mg/kg.

[Action:APEDA, EIC, DAHD]

Difluoroacetic Acid (DFA)¹² is a metabolite of the insecticide flupyradifurone. Higher Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) have been proposed to prevent trade barriers, and a review confirmed no risks to consumer health. The updated MRLs (mg/kg) are as follows: citrus fruits (0.09), macadamias (0.3), sweet cherries (0.15), stone fruits (0.3), cane fruits (0.07), avocados (0.15), mangoes and papayas (0.2), leafy brassicas (0.7), asparagus (0.5), sesame seeds (0.9), sunflower seeds (0.15), maize (0.15), oats (0.8), rye (1.5), herbal infusions (0.1), sugar beet roots and chicory roots (0.09), swine fat (0.2), swine liver (0.1), sheep fat (0.3), goat fat (0.3), and poultry fat (0.04). [Action:APEDA, EIC, DAHD]

Flupyradifurone¹⁴ is an insecticide used on a variety of crops, including vegetables, fruits, grapes, date palm, coffee, and cocoa. The Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) (mg/kg) have been updated as follows: apricots (1), sweet cherries (2), peaches (1.5), plums (0.4), berries (0.7), mangoes (0.7), papayas (0.4), leafy brassicas (4), herbs and edible flowers (40), sesame seeds (3), sunflower seeds (0.7), common millet (0.02), oats (3), rye (1), swine fat (0.02), swine liver (0.1), and swine kidneys and edible offals (0.15). Action:APEDA, Coffee Board, IOPEPC, EIC, DAHD

Effective date: 30 April 2025

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2633 15 of 8 October 2024:

Azoxystrobin¹⁶ is a fungicide widely used on crops such as wheat, fruits, sunflowers, vegetables, cotton, pecans, canola, soybeans, peanuts, as well as on turf and ornamentals. The Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) have been updated to 4 mg/kg for papayas and 1 mg/kg for chicory roots. [Action:APEDA, TEXPROCIL]

Famoxadone¹⁷ is a fungicide used mainly for potatoes; tomatoes; salad crops; peppers; cucurbits; grapes; spinach; rocket. MRL for hops increased to 50 mg/kg. Action:APEDA

Flutriafol¹⁸ is a fungicide used mainly for cereals including corn; soybeans; apples. MRL (mg/kg) changed for almonds (0.8), barley (1.5), swine/bovine/sheep/goat/equine/other farmed terrestrial animals (fat 0.02), (liver, kidney, edible offals 1); poultry fat (0.03).

Action:APEDA

Mandipropamid¹⁹ is a fungicide used on Grapes; Potatoes; Tomatoes; Curcubits. MRL (mg/kg) changed for cucurbits with edible peel (0.2), pumpkins and watermelons (0.4) [Action:APEDA]

Mefentrifluconazole²⁰ is a fungicide used on cereals. MRL (mg/kg) changed for oranges (1), lemons/limes/ mandarins (1.5), tree nuts (0.06), apricots and peaches (2), sweet cherries (5), plums (1.5), winegrapes and strawberries (2), cane fruits (3), blueberries/currants/gooseberries/ rose hips/elderberries (5), kumquats (1.5), avocados (1), bananas (1.5), mangoes (0.6), papayas (0.5), potatoes and tropical root/tuber vegetables (0.05), other root and tuber vegetables except sugar beets (0.5), garlic/onions/shallots (0.2), spring onions (4), tomatoes (0.7), sweet peppers/ aubergines/okra (1.5), cucurbits with inedible peel (0.5), sweetcorn (0.04), beans with pods (0.05), peas with pods (0.15), beans (0.07), lentils (1.5), lin-/poppy-/sesame-/ rape-/mustard-/borage-/gold of pleasure seeds (1), sunflower-/safflower seeds (0.15), soyabeans (0.4), cotton seeds (0.2), barley (3), common millet (2), rice (1.5), rye (0.4), sorghum (2), wheat (0.4), coffee beans (0.4), ginseng (0.5), sugar canes (1.5), chicory roots (0.5).

Effective date: 29 October 2024

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2612 21 of 7 October 2024

Flonicamid²² (sum of flonicamid, TFNA and TFNG expressed as flonicamid) is an insecticide used mainly on Fruit including apples, pears, peaches, plums, melons, cherries; Cereals including wheat, barley, oats, rye, triticale; Potatoes; Cucumbers; Tomatoes; Aubergine; Various vegetables. MRL's (mg/kg) changed for potatoes (0.2), lettuces and salad plants (0.6), spinaches and similar leaves (0.6), beans without pods (0.7), cardoons/celeries/Florence fennels/rhubarbs (0.3).

Clopyralid²³ is a herbicide used mainly on Cereals including wheat, barley, oats, triticale; Turf; Ornamentals; Non-cropped and fallow land; Industrial situations. MRL's (mg/kg) changed for Honey and other apiculture products (0.15). Action:APEDA, DAHD, EIC

Difenoconazole²⁴ is a fungicide used mainly on Vegetables including carrots, asparagus, brassicas; Potatoes; Cereals including barley, oats, rye, wheat, triticale; Sweetcorn; Cotton; Canola; Tomato; Pome fruits. . MRL's (mg/kg) changed for sorghum (0.3) and wheat (0.3). Action:APEDA, TEXPROCIL

Chitosan²⁵ is an approved basic substance, Fat distillation residues²⁶ and hydrolysed proteins²⁷ have been renewed as low-risk active substances. Lavandulyl senecioate²⁸ has been approved as a low-risk active substance. The conditions of use of those substances are not expected to lead to the presence of residues in food or feed commodities that may pose a risk to the consumer and, therefore, no MRLs are required.

Effective date: 28 October 2024

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2619²⁹ of 8 October 2024:

Phosphonic acid³⁰ is, among other things, a degradation product of the fungicide fosetyl aluminum (fosetyl-Al), which is used, for example, in the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, including grapes, apples, pears, raspberry, blackberry, strawberry; ginseng; lettuce; onion; broccoli; tobacco; turf; ornamentals. However, residues of phosphonic acid in food cannot always be traced back to the use of fosetyl-Al, as there may also be other routes of entry. Possible entry routes include disodium phosphonate and potassium phosphonate, which are authorised substances in the EU. In addition, the previous residue definition, fosetyl-Al (sum of fosetyl, phosphonic acid and its salts, expressed as fosetyl) is to be changed to phosphonic acid and its salts, expressed as phosphonic acid. It is noted that there are reductions in MRLs for some products and increases for others. The maximum levels range from the respective specific limit of determination, e.g. 1.5 mg/ kg for cranberries and dates or 20 mg/kg for tea and coffee, to specific maximum levels of 1000 mg/kg for almonds and 1500 mg/kg for rooibos. Action: APEDA, Tobacco Board, Tea Board, EIC

Full list: https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/maximum-residue-levels-for-fosetyl-alphosphonic-acid/

Effective date: 29 April 2025

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2609³¹ of 7 October 2024:

Napropamide³² (sum of isomers) is a herbiside used on Vegetables, Fruit tree and bushes; Vines; Tobacco; Olives; Sunflowers; Turf; Oilseed rape; Ornamentals. MRL's (mg/kg) changed for fruits (fresh or frozen), tree nuts (0.01) and herbs and edible flowers (0.02). Action:APEDA, Spices Board

Pyridaben³³ is an insecticide and acaricide used on field crops; fruit trees; strawberries; ornamentals; vegetables; greenhouse crops including cucumbers, tomatoes & peppers. MRL's (mg/kg) changed for pome fruits (0.15), stone fruits (0.01), legume vegetables (0.01), commodities from products of animal origin – terrestrial animals (0.01), amphibians and reptiles (0.01), terrestrial invertebrate animals (0.01), wild terrestrial vertebrate animals (0.01). [Action:APEDA, DAHD, EIC]

Tebufenpyrad³⁴ is an acaricide used on apples; pears; strawberries; commercial greenhouses; ornamentals including roses; hops. MRL's (mg/kg) changed for apricots and peaches (0.3), table grapes (0.4), legume vegetables (0.01), hops (0.05). Action:APEDA

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/2711³⁵ of 22 October 2024:

Thiacloprid³⁶ is an insecticide used on apples, pears, some citrus crops, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, parsnips, peas, potatoes, and oilseed rape. It is considered an endocrine disruptor and is harmful to the hormonal balance of humans and animals. The approval of thiacloprid

for use in the EU was not renewed due to its toxicity and the risk of groundwater contamination. The EU has lowered the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for thiacloprid to the limit of determination (LOD) for the following products. The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods, set at 0.01 mg/kg for pome fruits, stone fruits, berries and small fruits, miscellaneous fruits with edible and inedible peels (small and large), root and tuber vegetables, bulb vegetables, fruiting vegetables, brassica vegetables (excluding brassica roots and brassica baby leaf crops), lettuces and salad plants, spinach and similar leaves, legume vegetables, stem vegetables, pulses, cereals, sugar plants, products of animal origin (terrestrial animals), and milk. For herbs and edible flowers, as well as oilseeds and oil fruits, the LOD was set at 0.02 mg/kg. For teas, coffee, herbal infusions, cocoa and carobs, seed spices, honey, and other apiculture products, the LOD was set at 0.05 mg/kg. Action: APEDA, Tea Board, Coffee Board

Full list: https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/maximum-residue-level-for-thiacloprid/

Effective date: 12 May 2025

B. EU Active Substance Renewal Monitor

I. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) open public consultation

EFSA regularly carries out public consultations on its scientific outputs. The stakeholders and other interested parties are encouraged to share their insights, data and other feedback on draft versions of the scientific assessments. The following active substances is open for public consultation:-

Active substance	Deadline
Bacillus nakamurai F727 (Pesticides Peer Review - NAS) 37	15-12-2024
Mecoprop-P (Pesticides Peer Review - NAS) ³⁸	14-01-2025
Oxathia piprolin (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) $^{\rm 39}$	17-12-2024
Candida oleophila strain O (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) $^{\! 40}$	30-12-2024
Quinmerac (Pesticides MRL) ⁴¹	04-12-2024
Potassium Phosphonates - in banana, pineapples, legume vegetables and radish (Pesticides MRL) 42	05-12-2024
Metamitron (Pesticides MRL) ⁴³	05-12-2024
Draft scientific report on specific effects on the reproductive function including fertility relevant for assessment of pesticide residues (Pesticides MRL) ⁴⁴	20-01-2025

II. Up next for review

Under the EU pesticide review program, active ingredients need to reapply for renewal three years before its expiration date. Substances listed below have upcoming deadlines for the submission of the renewal dossier:-

Cypermethrin	31-01-2026
Florpyrauxifen-benzyl	24-07-2026
Flutianil	14-04-2026
Mefentrifluconazole	20-03-2026

III. Active substances due for renewal – expected to expire

For the below active ingredients, applications for **renewal** of approval were not submitted or applications have been withdrawn.

Active Substance	Date
Metaflumizone	31-12-2024
Gamma-cyhalothrin	31-03-2025
Meptyldinocap	31-03-2025

C. EU Newscorner

EU Deforestation Regulation: Application Timeline Extended to Ensure Smooth Implementation.⁴⁵

On 16 October 2024, the Council of the European Union agreed to postpone the application of the EU deforestation regulation by 12 months. This decision aims to provide additional time for member states, third countries, operators, and traders to adequately prepare for compliance with due diligence obligations. The regulation, adopted in 2023, mandates that commodities such as cattle, wood, cocoa, soy, palm oil, coffee, rubber, and their derived products must be deforestation-free to be placed on or exported from the EU market.

The revised timeline stipulates that large operators and traders must comply by 30 December 2025, while micro and small enterprises have until 30 June 2026. This extension is intended to ensure a smooth and effective implementation of the regulation's requirements, including the establishment of comprehensive due diligence systems to identify and mitigate deforestation risks within supply chains. The core objective of minimizing the EU's contribution to global deforestation remains unchanged, with the regulation applying to products produced on land not subject to deforestation or forest degradation after 31 December 2020.

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