



Pesticide Monitoring

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EU Updates on MRLs

The Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) of a number of chemical substances has been revised by European Commission (EC). EU Member States, third countries and food business operators must ensure their products comply with the new requirements.

MRLs for non-approved active substances¹: The approval of following active substances either expired or was not renewed.

Azinphos-methyl a broad spectrum organophosphate insecticide is also banned in India.

Flufenoxuron an insecticide that belongs to the benzoylurea group.

Oxadiazon used as herbicide to control the growth of broadleaves, grasses, sedge, brush vines, etc.

Phosalone an organophosphate chemical commonly used as an insecticide and acaricide

Tall oil or "liquid rosin" obtained as a by-product wood pulp manufacture is used as a repellent.

- All existing authorisations for plant protection products containing these active substances have been revoked.
- Existing MRLs lowered to the default level of 0.01mg/kg or Limit of analytical determination (LOD), with few exceptions as listed in table.

- **Effective Date:** 25 May 2021

Chemical Substance	MRLs higher than default or LOD
Azinphos-methyl	Spices: 0.5mg/kg (Codex limit)
Flufenoxuron	Tea: 15mg/kg (on account of import tolerance request from Japan)
Phosalone	Spices seed and fruit spices: 2mg/kg Root and rhizome spices: 3mg/kg (Codex limit)

MRLs for approved active substances¹: The MRL of following substances has been re-assessed and revised for selected products.

Bentazone a widely used herbicide used in post-emergence broad-leaved weed control.

Dimethomorph a fungicide effective in control of late blight disease in grapes, potatoes, tomatoes, and other crops.

Fludioxonil a fungicide used to control seed and soil borne disease.

Pyraclostrobin a fungicide which is used against mildew and powdery mildew.

Teflubenzuron an insecticide used to control a range of pests mainly on greenhouse crops and tree fruit. Also used to control sea lice in fisheries.

¹ EU Regulation (2020/1633) dated 27 Oct. 2020 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R1633>

- **Usage in India:** All the three fungicides are widely used in India for a variety of crops such as maize, soya bean potatoes, cotton, grapes, chillis, potatoes, tomatoes, etc.
- **Effective Date:** 25 May 2021

Chemical Substance	Commodity	New MRLs (mg/kg)	
Bentazone	Potatoes	0.15	
	Products of animal origin from Swine	0.02	
		Bovine, Ovine, Equine, others	0.02-0.15
	Milk	0.02-0.03	
	Herbal infusions from leaves and herbs	0.30	
	Leeks	0.03	
Dimethomorph	Blackberry and Raspberry	0.01	
Fludioxonil	Products of animal origin from Swine, Bovine, Sheep, Equine, others	0.02-0.10	
		Poultry	0.01-0.10
		Eggs	0.02
Pyraclostrobin	Table grapes	0.30	
Teflubenzuron	All Products of animal origin	0.01	

EU Updates on Pesticides

Topramezone: Non-renewal of the approval of the active substance²

Topramezone is a post-emergence herbicide for broad-leaved weeds and grasses used mainly on corn.

- **Effective date:** 15th February 2021.
- **Reason for non-approval:** Application withdrawn by applicant BASF SE
- **Usage in India³:** It is commonly available by brand name Tynzer manufactured by BASF. It is used widely in maize cultivation.

Open Public Consultation - European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)	Deadline
Public consultation on the draft EFSA Scientific Committee Opinion on a systems-based approach to the environmental risk assessment of multiple stressors in honeybees ³	25/02/2021
Public consultation on the active substance Limestone is open for comments ⁴	17/03/2021

² EU Regulation (2021/79) dated 27 Jan. 2021 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0079&qid=1611823213350>

³ <https://www.bighaat.com/products/tynzer-herbicide>

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/public-consultation-draft-efsa-scientific-committee-opinion-1>

Important Clarification

Applicability of EU MRLs in post –Brexit UK

- In accordance with the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), *“All relevant EU law in relation to the regulation of plant protection products has been retained in GB law and retains the same official titles”*.

However, this is only in respect to those statutory requirements in force before 01/01/2021 (pre Brexit).

- All EU regulations in force by close on 31/12/2020 have been automatically adopted into GB law and have been included in the GB MRL Statutory Register⁵.
- EU MRLs that came into force after 1/1/2021 have not been adopted as GB MRLs – so in these cases the GB and EU MRLs may differ. After 1/1/2020, GB MRLs will be reviewed by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or MRLs are raised on the basis of applications submitted to HSE.
- There will be increased divergence of EU and GB MRLs, now that these are separate regulatory regimes. There arises a need for exporters to UK and EU to adopt a split system where products for EU and UK are dealt separately and are treated with appropriate laws.

Future Regulatory Changes

Imported food that does not comply with relevant EU environmental standards would not be allowed on EU markets

- As part of EUs ambitious Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy, EU proposes to include environmental concerns in MRL setting of Plant Protection products (PPP).
- EU is of the opinion that certain environmental issues are matters of global concern that go far beyond national boundaries. For example, the decline and threat of extinction of pollinators in many parts of the world and the accumulation in the environment of persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic substances are global issues and often transported over large geographical distances and the current quantitative risk assessment does not adequately reflect their complex behaviour.
- The future EU pesticide regulations would take into account environment aspects not only in their assessment of active substance but also consider it while setting import tolerance.
- This measure would have further trade restricting potential for the agricultural exports from third countries.

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/public-consultation-active-substance-limestone-0>

⁶ <https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/MRLs/Main>

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