

EU Pesticide Residue in Rice Alert

This EU Pesticide Residue Alert is aimed at providing information on recent and upcoming regulatory changes that may have an impact on rice production in the EU and in those countries exporting rice to the EU. This Alert is a summary of monitoring undertaken on a list of substances known to be commonly used in rice production¹ and sometimes found in analyses of rice, taking into account data pre-shipment to the EU and subsequent checks in the EU.

If production in your country uses substances other than those covered in this Alert, please feel free to contact the FERM Secretariat at the address below and we will include them in our monitoring.

For those substances within the scope of this monitoring where no MRL changes are currently foreseen (to the best of our knowledge), no specific information is provided below.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS TO NOTE

Chlorpyrifos & Chlorpyrifos-methyl:

As noted in the March Update, EU Member States have adopted the Commission's proposal to lower the MRLs for chlorpyrifos & chlorpyrifos-methyl in all food to the default level of 0.01mg/kg. Due in particular to concerns about the neurological effects of these substances during development, the Commission and Member States have taken a stricter approach than normal to implementation.

The Regulation will apply three months instead of the normal six months after the date of entry into force. The current estimate is that the new MRLs will apply from November. **There will be no transitional period**, so rice that will be on the European market from November onwards must contain no residues of chlorpyrifos & chlorpyrifos-methyl.

Propiconazole:

The use of this substance is now illegal in the EU. The Commission has indicated that a default MRL of 0.01 mg/kg will be established in 2020, most probably without transitional periods. Agricultural practices must be adapted accordingly to ensure that rice destined for the EU market does not contain traces of propiconazole.

¹ 2,4-D, 4-bromo-2-chlorophenol, Acephate, Acetamiprid, Azoxystrobin, Bifenthrin, Biphenyl, Bromide ion, Buprofezin, Carbendazim, Chlorpyrifos (also chlorpyrifos-ethyl), Clothianidin, Cypermethrin, Cyproconazole, Deltamethrin, Dichlorvos, Diethyltoluamide, Difenoconazole, Diphenylamine, Fenitrothion, Fenobucarb, Fipronil, Flusilazol, Flutolanil, Glyphosate, Hexaconazole, Imidacloprid, Iprobenfos, Iprodione, Isoprothiolane, Isazophos, Lambda-Cyhalothrin, Malathion, Methamidophos, Paclbutrazol, Pendimethalin, Permethrin, Pirimiphos-methyl, Profenfos, Propiconazole, Quinclorac, Quinalifop, Tebuconazole, Tebufenozide, Tetramethrin, Thiamenthoxam, Thiophanate-methyl, Triazophos, Trifloxystrobin, Tricyclazole.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS TO NOTE (continued)

Chlorate:

The EU has now published Commission Regulation 2020/749 of 4 June 2020 which establishes a chlorate MRL for rice of 0.05 mg/kg. As these are new levels, no transition period has been foreseen. The MRLs are therefore applicable from the entry into force of the Regulation on 24 June, 2020.

Although no longer used in pesticides in the EU, it is possible that forms of chlorate are included in pesticides in rice-producing countries or used for other technical purposes, for example, as desiccants. All rice suppliers are urged to check for the potential presence of chlorate.

EU official controls of pesticide residues in rice

EU Member States are systematically undertaking controls of food on the market and at the EU's borders. Findings of non-compliance are reported via the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

The following reports of rice have been made in recent months:

Date	Reference	Reporting country	Finding
26/05/2020	2020.2172	Italy	unauthorised substance tricyclazole (0.033 mg/kg - ppm) in aromatic rice from Bangladesh
20/05/2020	2020.1995	United Kingdom	thiamethoxam (0.046 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
14/05/2020	2020.1999	United Kingdom	thiamethoxam (0.06 mg/kg - ppm) and unauthorised substance tricyclazole (0.10 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India
01/04/2020	2020.1483	Norway	unauthorised substance tricyclazole (0.11 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
20/03/2020	2020.1289	Denmark	buprofezin (0.014 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India, via the Netherlands

Recent changes to MRLs

Pesticide	Regulation	Previous MRL (mg/kg)	New MRL (mg/kg)	Applicable from	Transitional measures
Chlorate	Commission Regulation 2020/749 of 4 June 2020	-	0.05	24 June, 2020	-
Prochloraz	Commission Regulation 2020/192 of 12 February 2020	1	0.03	4 September 2020	Previous MRL applies to products placed on the market before 4 September 2020.

Residues found in rice for which there is a default MRL

There is an increased risk of non-compliance for rice imported into the EU in relation to the following pesticides for which there are default MRLs of 0.01*, 0.02* or 0.05*.

4 bromo 2 chlorophenol, Acephate, Acetamiprid, Bifenthrin, Biphenyl, Carbendazim, Carbofuran, Dichlorvos, Diethyltoluamid, Diphenylamine, Fenitrothion, Fenobucarb, Fipronil, Flusilazol, Hexaconazole, Iprobenfos, Isazophos, Methamidophos, Paclobutrazol, Pendimethalin, Permethrin, Profenfos, Quinalifop, Tetramethrin, Thiamenthoxam, Thiophanate-methyl, Triazaphos, Tricyclazole

Upcoming changes to MRLs: Adaption of agricultural practices required

The EU periodically reviews pesticides that are used in the EU. Where these are not reapproved, MRLs are systematically reduced to 0.01 unless there is a request for an import tolerance. The following pesticides are being removed or restricted in the EU:

Pesticide	EU action	Current MRL	Anticipated MRLs	Implication for rice production
Chlorpyrifos (also known as chlorpyrifos-ethyl)	MRL reduction expected in November 2020.	0.5	0.01*	In order to ensure no subsequent problems of compliance with EU law, rice destined for the EU should not contain residues of chlorpyrifos.
Chlorpyrifos-methyl	MRL reduction expected in November 2020.	3	0.01*	In order to ensure no subsequent problems of compliance with EU law, rice destined for the EU should not contain residues of chlorpyrifos – methyl.
Propiconazole	Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/1865 of 28 November 2018 stopped the authorised use of propiconazole. The MRL will be reduced, potentially as early as 2020.	1.5	0.01*	In order to ensure no subsequent problems of compliance with EU law, rice destined for the EU should not contain residues of propiconazole.
Imidacloprid	Use in the EU restricted to permanent greenhouses due to risk to bees. EFSA report on review of MRLs imminent:	1.5	0.01*	In order to ensure no subsequent problems of compliance with EU law, measures should be taken to ensure NO imidacloprid residues in the 2020 crop.
Clothianidin	Use in the EU restricted to permanent greenhouses due to risk to bees.	0.5	0.01*	Timing as yet unknown, to be monitored.
Malathion	Approval restricted permanent greenhouses on the basis of high risk to birds. Impact on MRLs is not yet clear.	8	0.01*	Timing as yet unknown, to be monitored.

Identifying alternative practices

As regards substances registered in India and Pakistan, further information and associated non-compliance risks in exports to the EU and other export markets can be found on Appryza, at <http://appryza.com>.

Disclaimer: *This Alert does not attempt to provide information on all pesticide residues regulated in the EU. It focuses on those, on the basis of information received from the sector, most frequently found in rice. Moreover, it reflects information collected to the best of FERM's knowledge at the time of compilation. FERM bears no responsibility for decisions taken by companies on the basis of information contained herein.*