



# Pesticide Monitoring



## A. EU Updates on Pesticides

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**Transitional measures :** 10 January 2025

**Grace Period :** 10 July 2025

**Reason for non-approval :** EFSA<sup>2</sup> The peer review identifies several risks and concerns regarding its potential as an endocrine disruptor, particularly related to thyroid hormone disruption. Furthermore, there are data gaps for evaluating potential effects on aquatic species, such as amphibians and fish, which require further testing. The applicant informed the Commission of the cessation of further studies concerning the endocrine-disrupting attributes and of its decision to self-classify that substance as toxic.

### II. Amendment of approval conditions

An Amendment of Approval Conditions refers to changes made to the conditions under which an active substance is approved for use. This occurs due to new scientific data, changes in usage patterns, regulatory updates, or results from monitoring that reveal environmental or health risks.

**Metalaxyl-M<sup>3</sup>** is a fungicide used to control diseases caused by air- and soil-borne pathogens. It is used on potatoes; tomatoes; hops; lettuce; vegetables; tobacco; sunflower; spinach; grapes. The regulation renews the approval of Metalaxyl-M 1 with stricter use conditions, including limiting a toxic impurity (CGA226048) to below 10 g/kg. Seed treatment with Metalaxyl-M remains restricted to seeds for greenhouse sowing, with updated impurity level limits. Health, environmental, and safety assessments, including those by EFSA<sup>4</sup>, informed these changes. Further confirmatory data on water treatment impacts must be provided by 2026.

**Effective date:** 11 December 2024

### I. Non-renewal of the approval of the active substance

The European Commission (EC) has published its decision not to renew approval for the active substance(s) listed below. Active substances are either not reapproved, or are withdrawn or restricted; the EC usually also lowers or removes MRLs. These are typically set at the limit of determination (LOD) or default level of 0.01 mg/kg. Decisions on active substances serve as an early indication of upcoming MRL changes and the need to adapt agricultural practices for produce exported to the EU.

**Acibenzolar-S-methyl<sup>1</sup>** is a preventative fungicide used to control various fungi, bacteria and viruses but also has some insecticide activity. It is used on Leafy vegetables; Tobacco; Tomatoes; Cotton.

### III. 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.

**Metconazole**<sup>5</sup> is a fungicide used to control a range of fungal infections on fruit and other crops. It is used on cereals including wheat, barley, rye, oats; OSR; Fruit including blueberry, cherry, gooseberry, nectarine, peach, plum; pistachio; turf and sod. The submitted trials are sufficient to derive MRL values of 0.5 mg/kg for blueberries, the limit of quantification of 0.04 mg/kg for potatoes and tropical root and tuber vegetables, 0.15 mg/kg for pulses and 1 mg/kg for sunflower seeds. However, since the MRL values on blueberries and sunflower seeds are currently set at a level of 0.4 mg/kg and 0.7 mg/kg, respectively, in North America, EFSA<sup>6</sup> proposes to set the import tolerances at these levels for these two plant commodities.

**Expiration of approval:** 31-08-2031

### IV. Approval of a basic substance

The approval of a active or basic substance refers to the process by which a substance is evaluated and approved for use within certain regulatory frameworks.

**Onobrychis viciifolia (sainfoin) dried pellets**<sup>7</sup> to be used in plant protection as a nematicide in grapevines. EFSA<sup>8</sup> findings concluded that the environmental risk was considered low for birds, mammals, soil micro-organisms, aquatic organisms, and other non-target species. The application of the pellets to the soil was considered unlikely to leave significant residues on grapevines. Any potential residues would likely be comparable to those resulting from the use of sainfoin as a fertiliser, which is

not a high risk due to the common presence of quercetin in the human diet.

**Date of approval:** 17-07-2024

### V. 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).

**Indoxacarb**<sup>9</sup> : An insecticide for use on a wide range of crops to control certain Lepidoptera, cockroaches and ants. The risks addressed in the EU Regulation Reg. (EU) 2024/376 and EFSA's<sup>10</sup> findings include: the Authority identified unacceptable risks concerning the current MRLs based on CXLs for apples, pears, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, table and wine grapes, tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, broccoli, cauliflower and lettuce. Therefore, MRLs for these products should be lowered to the relevant limit of determination (LOD) of 0.01 mg/kg.

**Effective date:** 14 August 2024

### VI. Extension of the approval periods of the active substances<sup>11</sup>:

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.

Active substance	Commodities	Extension upto
Amisulbrom	Potatoes; Tomatoes; Grapes; Curcubits; Bell peppers	15-09-2026
S-abscissic acid	Various fruits; Greenhouse tomatoes; Grapes	15-09-2026
Thiencarbazon	Corn; Sweetcorn; Soybean; Beet; Wheat (Spring & Durum); Turf; Ornamentals	01-03-2027
Valifenalate	Grapes; Tomatoes; Potatoes; Tobacco; Some vegetables; Lettuce	01-03-2027

## 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
8-methyldecan-2-yl propanoate (Pesticides Peer Review– NAS) <sup>12</sup>	18-10-2024
Choline hydrogen phosphonate (Pesticides Peer Review– NAS) <sup>13</sup>	25-10-2024
luazinam (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>14</sup>	28-09-2024
Fluroxypyr-meptyl (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>15</sup>	27-09-2024
Pinoxaden (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>16</sup>	18-10-2024
Bacillus velezensis D747 (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>17</sup>	09-11-2024
Clodinafop (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>18</sup>	03-11-2024
Hexythiazox (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>19</sup>	09-11-2024
Methyl-2,5-dichlorobenzoate (Pesticides Peer Review– AIR) <sup>20</sup>	11-11-2024
2,4-D (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>21</sup>	09-10-2024
Bixafen (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR) <sup>22</sup>	17-11-2024
Hexythiazox (Pesticides MRL) <sup>23</sup>	24-09-2024
Chlormequat chloride in oats (Pesticides MRL) <sup>24</sup>	02-10-2024
Isotianil - IT in Citrus Fruit and Banana (Pesticides MRL) <sup>25</sup>	09-10-2024

### 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 :-

Calcium carbide (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR)	22-11-2024
Fenpyroximate (Pesticides Peer Review – AIR)	24-11-2024
Sulfuryl fluoride (Pesticides MRL)	14-10-2024

### 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
Acibenzolar-S-methyl <sup>26</sup>	20-07-2024
Metribuzin <sup>27</sup>	24-07-2024
Tritosulfuron <sup>28</sup>	21-08-2024
Terpenoid blend QRD-460 <sup>29</sup>	10-08-2025
Fatty acids C8-C10 methyl esters <sup>30</sup>	31-08-2024

## C. EU News Corner

### I. Revised rules for fisheries control and integrates digital catch certification <sup>31</sup>

The European Commission coordinated an Information Seminar on 17 September 2024 for third countries, via webex to communicate the adoption of revised rules for fisheries control and integrates digital catch certification. Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 has come into force since 9th January 2024. CATCH\* (Certification and Authentication of Fishery Products) will become compulsory for EU operators and authorities for imports of fishery products from 10 January 2026. The Regulation seeks to modernize and strengthen fisheries control, ensuring that EU fishing activities remain environmentally sustainable while fostering better compliance with both EU and international fisheries laws. It incorporates modern technology for better monitoring, accurate catch reporting (via CATCH), stricter

control over recreational fishing, and enhanced measures for waste management of fishing gear.

*“Regulation (EU) 2023/2842,” pertains to amendments related to fisheries control within the European Union (EU). It modifies previous regulations, including Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, to better align fisheries control with the modern demands of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and incorporates advancements in technology, scientific research, and international obligations.*

*\*CATCH (Certification and Authentication of Fishery Products) is an electronic system implemented by the EU to ensure that all fishery products entering the EU market are traceable and comply with regulations, particularly those aimed at combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.*



## II. European Parliament adopts its position on Green Claims Directive <sup>32</sup>

The European Parliament's Green Claims Directive aims to regulate environmental claims made by companies, requiring third-party verification to ensure their accuracy. Companies will now be required to back up any green claims they make, such as "carbon neutral" or "eco-friendly," with verified, independent assessments. Other key points include strict rules on carbon offsetting, a focus on claims regarding hazardous substances, and tighter verification timelines. The directive exempts micro-enterprises and gives SMEs more time to comply. Penalties for non-compliance could amount to up to 4% of annual turnover. The final approval of the directive will be decided by the newly elected Parliament after June 2024.

## III. Commission strengthens support for EU Deforestation Regulation implementation and proposes extra 12 months of phasing-in time, responding to calls by global partners<sup>33</sup>

The European Commission has introduced additional guidance documents<sup>34</sup> and a robust international cooperation framework to bolster the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation. This regulation is a critical part of the EU's strategy to combat global deforestation and forest degradation, aiming to ensure that products entering the EU market do not contribute to these issues.

To facilitate a smoother transition for global stakeholders, the Commission has proposed an additional 12-month phasing-in period, which is still pending with the European Parliament for approval. This extension responds to requests from international partners, providing more time for countries and companies to adapt to the new requirements. The regulation mandates that operators and traders must verify that their products are not sourced from recently deforested land and do not contribute to forest degradation.

The overarching goals of the regulation are to reduce the EU's environmental footprint, promote sustainable consumption patterns, and protect biodiversity. By implementing these measures, the EU aims to lead by example in the global fight against deforestation, encouraging other regions to adopt similar practices and fostering a more sustainable global supply chain.

## References

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