



International Coffee Council
134th Session
3–7 October 2022
Bogota, Colombia

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

Background

1. The International Coffee Organization is committed to keeping Members informed about food safety issues, particularly regarding the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of pesticides applicable to coffee. Members were, therefore, requested in July 2022 to update details of MRLs for pesticides used in the coffee production process (see document [ED 2411/22](#)).
2. Up to 8 September 2022, the ICO received replies from Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines and Switzerland. In addition, information has been made available for one non-member country, China. This report consolidates the information to provide a database of the 43 chemicals applicable to coffee, showing the MRLs in each country for which information is available.
3. Changes from the previous report published in 2018 are highlighted and reported in red.

Action

The Council is requested to consider this document.

MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS

1. This report contains information on the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of pesticides applicable to coffee in selected countries. These limits, as well as other sanitary, phytosanitary and technical requirements (SPS and TBT), may affect the trade of green, roasted and soluble coffee.
2. The attached table lists the MRLs for the 43 pesticides applicable to coffee beans (SB 0716) and roasted coffee (SM 0716) covered by the *Codex Alimentarius* (first two columns). The Codex was established in 1963 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide harmonized international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice. The Codex has 189 members and 225 observers. MRLs for pesticides are established by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, and limits for 43 pesticides applied to coffee were listed as of August 2018. However, the Committee considers new limits on a yearly basis, so Members are advised to check directly with the Codex. Further information is available at www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius.
3. The attached table also compares MRLs for Codex with data for individual exporting and importing markets that have reported MRLs values to the ICO. The information provided covers approximately 62% of world exports and 70% of world imports.
4. National regulations for MRLs of pesticides applied to coffee can be divided into three categories:
 - (a) Following Codex guidelines: Colombia*, Costa Rica and Cuba*.
 - (b) Following Codex guidelines combined with the standards defined by one or more of the following entities: The East African Community (EAS), the European Union (EU), Japan and the USA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Member countries in this category are: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador*, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Uganda.
 - (c) Own national standards: Brazil*, EU, Ghana, Indonesia*, Japan, Kenya* and the USA*.
5. In addition, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Haiti* and Togo reported negligible use of pesticides, while no quality standards at national level have been defined by China. However, the coffee-planting area in Yunnan province, in China, follows the 4C's baseline sustainability standard, which contains three lists of pesticides, divided into Unacceptable Practices pesticides, Red List pesticides and Yellow List pesticides.

* As reported in document [ICC-110-3 Rev. 2](#), 25 February 2013.

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Comparison between Codex Alimentarius and selected national standards

Pesticide	Codex Alimentarius	Year of Adoption	European Union	Japan	USA	Brazil	DRC	Ecuador	Ghana	Indonesia	Kenya	Rwanda	Uganda
Aldicarb	0.10 mg/kg		0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10		0.10		0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Azoxystrobin	0.03 mg/kg	2014	0.03	0.05		0.05							
Benzovindiflupyr	0.15 mg/kg	2017		0.20		0.03							
Boscalid	0.05 mg/kg	2010	0.05	0.05		0.05							
Buprofezin	0.40 mg/kg	2015	0.05	0.40									
Carbendazim	0.10 mg/kg	2001	0.10	0.10								0.10	
Carbofuran	1.00 mg/kg	1999	0.05	1.00	0.10	0.10		0.10		0.10	0.10	1.00	
Chlorantraniliprole	0.05 mg/kg	2014	0.02	0.05		0.03							
Chlorpyrifos	0.05 mg/kg	2003	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.05		0.05	0.1 (EU) / 0.05 (Japan)	0.05	0.05		
Clothianidin	0.05 mg/kg	2011	0.05	0.05					0.05 (EU) / 0.02 (Japan)				
Cyantraniliprole	0.05 mg/kg	2016	0.05	0.05		0.01							
Cyhalothrin (includes lambda-cyhalothrin)	0.01 mg/kg	2016	0.05	0.01		0.05							
Cypermethrins (including alpha- and zeta-cypermethrin)	0.05 mg/kg	2009	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.30	0.10	0.05	0.10 (EU) / 0.03 (Japan)	0.05	0.05	0.05	
Cyproconazole (Coffee beans)	0.07 mg/kg	2014	0.10	0.10		0.20							

Pesticide	Codex Alimentarius	Year of Adoption	European Union	Japan	USA	Brazil	DRC	Ecuador	Ghana	Indonesia	Kenya	Rwanda	Uganda
Cyproconazole (Coffee beans, Roasted)	0.10 mg/kg	2014	0.10	0.10		0.20							
Difenoconazole	0.01 mg/kg	2018		0.01		0.50							
Diquat	0.02 mg/kg	2014	0.02	0.02		0.10							
Disulfoton	0.20 mg/kg	1995	0.05	0.20	0.20	0.10				0.20		0.20	
Endosulfan	0.20 mg/kg	2007	0.10	0.10			0.10	0.10		0.10	0.10		
Ethiprole	0.07 mg/kg	2019		0.01		0.10							
Ethiprole (Coffee beans, Roasted)	0.2 mg/kg	2019				0.10							
Fenpropathrin	0.03 mg/kg	2015	0.02	0.03		0.50							
Fenpyroximate	0.07 mg/kg	2018		0.07		0.05							
Fluazifop-p-butyl	0.01 mg/kg	2017		0.01		0.03							
Fluensulfone	0.05 mg/kg	2021				0.20							
Flupyradifurone	0.9 mg/kg	2021				1.50							
Flutriafol	0.15 mg/kg	2012	0.15	0.20		0.05							
Fluxapyroxad	0.15 mg/kg	2019		0.2		0.20							
Fosetyl Al ¹	30 mg/kg	2021				0.05							
Glufosinate-Ammonium	0.10 mg/kg	2013	0.10	0.10		0.05							
Haloxyfop	0.02 mg/kg	2010	0.05	0.01		0.01							
Imidacloprid	1.00 mg/kg	2009	1.00	0.70	0.80	0.50	1.00		0.05				

¹ The Maximum Residue Limit of Fosetyl-al is now under the definition of Phosphonic Acid with a planned reduction of 5 mg/kg to 0.3 mg/kg, which may entail difficulties for coffee imports from certain countries.

Pesticide	Codex Alimentarius	Year of Adoption	European Union	Japan	USA	Brazil	DRC	Ecuador	Ghana	Indonesia	Kenya	Rwanda	Uganda
Lufenuron	0.07 mg/kg	2019		0.01		0.05							
Metaflumizone	0.15 mg/kg					0.10							
Permethrin	0.05 mg/kg		0.10	0.05		0.01				0.05		0.05	
Phorate	0.05 mg/kg	2006	0.05	0.02	0.02								
Propiconazole	0.02 mg/kg	2008	0.02	0.02		0.05				0.10			
Pyraclostrobin	0.30 mg/kg	2007	0.30	0.30		0.50							
Saflufenacil	0.01 mg/kg	2012	0.03	0.03		0.03							
Spirodiclofen	0.03 mg/kg	2010	0.05	0.03		0.03							
Tebuconazole	0.10 mg/kg	2012	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.30							
Terbufos	0.05 mg/kg	2006	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.05				0.05		0.05	
Thiamethoxam	0.20 mg/kg	2011	0.20	0.20	0.05	0.10			0.05 (EU) / 0.02 (Japan)				
Triadimefon	0.50 mg/kg	2008	0.05	0.05		0.10	0.50	0.05		0.05	0.05		
Triadimenol	0.50 mg/kg	2008	0.05	0.10		0.50		0.10		0.10	0.10	0.10	

Notes: a blank means information was not reported or not available.