

France suspends imports of foodstuffs from non-EU countries containing residues of certain PPPs – prohibited for use in the European Union

The French Authorities published an Order dated 5 January 2026 suspending the import of foodstuffs from countries outside the European Union that contain residues of PPPs prohibited for use in the European Union.

The French measure targets the following active substances: Carbendazim and Benomyl, Glufosinate, Thiophanate-methyl, and Mancozeb. It applies to the specific commodities listed in the publication's appendix.

Mancozeb: non-approved in the EU since 04/01/2021, MRLs remain in place. Classified as a cut-off AS. The process to lower MRLs was postponed and has not been relaunched, and it depends on dithiocarbonates as a group. Court case conclusions published in December regarding the illegal removal of mancozeb. The Court concluded that mancozeb was removed legally.

Glufosinate: not approved in the EU since 31/07/2018, following the manufacturer's decision to no longer defend this AS at the European level. MRLs remained in place after use expired.

Thiophanate-methyl: expiration of approval on 19/10/2020 following the non-renewal. MRLs remained in place following the non-renewal.

Carbendazim: approval expired on 30/11/2014. No application/letter for renewal of approval has been submitted to defend the uses in the EU. MRLs remained in place following the expiry of the use.

Public concerns: food business operators who import, introduce, or place on the market foodstuffs in the national territory.

Objective: suspension of the import, introduction and placing on the market, free of charge or for consideration, of foodstuffs from countries outside the European Union containing residues of certain active plant protection substances prohibited for use in the European Union.

Entry into force: this decree shall enter into force the day after its publication. It shall not apply to foodstuffs acquired by the importer or marketer within a period of up to one month at the latest after the entry into force of this Order.

Application: Pursuant to Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002, the purpose of this Order is to prohibit, as a precautionary measure, throughout the national territory, the placing on the market, free of charge or for consideration, of foodstuffs from third countries containing residues of certain active plant protection substances prohibited for use in the European Union.

Annex I: The import, introduction and placing on the market, free of charge or for consideration, of foodstuffs containing quantifiable residues of dangerous active substances, as listed in the Annex, are suspended.

Annex II: Food business operators and feed business operators shall take reasonable steps to ensure, in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 referred to above, that the food they import, introduce or place on the market in France complies with the requirements of Article I:

- These actions may be based on the implementation by the operators of the following operations:

- The collection of information on the origin of the foodstuffs acquired.
- The analysis of the available information to assess whether the foodstuffs have been treated with plant protection products containing one of the active substances mentioned in the Annex.
- The implementation of control measures to ensure that foodstuffs meet the requirements of Article 1^{er}, which may include steps to obtain from exporters any evidence guaranteeing this.
- Analyses to demonstrate the absence of quantifiable residues of the active substances mentioned in the Annex.
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Article III: The provisions of this Order shall not apply to foodstuff acquired by the importer or the person placing the product on the market **no later than one month after the entry into force of this Order**.

Article IV: This prohibition shall end upon the entry into force of appropriate measures by the European Commission or, failing that, one year after its entry into force.

According to the FR Order, the measures imposed by the French authorities are based on an assessment of scientific data indicating a potential serious risk to human health arising from exposure to the above-mentioned substances through various foodstuffs. However, the measure is controversial, as it **does not apply to all** food commodities for which maximum residue levels (MRLs) have been established.

Freshfel Europe will gather further information on the new measure and provide a deeper analysis in the newsletter next week. Freshfel Europe will also communicate its concerns to the European Commission, DG SANTE, Pesticides Unit.

The French measure should also be discussed between the European Commission and the EU Member States within 10 days. In addition, the measure should be notified to WTO partners by the FR authorities; however, this notification has not yet taken place.

[Also see Appendix]