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Proposals for Reduction of MRLs

Fera has advised that the European Council has proposed discussions for lowering of MRLs for non-approved active substances for which there is concern over consumer intake or where authorisations have been withdrawn.

One specific example of this would be the reduction of the MRL for Diphenylamine on apples and pears to the Limit of Determination (LOD) . The current MRLs (5 mg/kg for apples, 10 mg/kg for pears) represent a significant erosion of safety margins by exceedance of the acute reference dose for this active substance.

No formal proposal has been put forward to the EU Standing Committee for formal consideration, so there is currently no link via the CRD website.

The timescales for changes any discussed changes of legislation are as yet undetermined, but given the usual protocols observed in cases such as these, it is unlikely that any changes would come into force prior to August 2012.

SAL will monitor all activity on this front, and will issue further technical bulletins as required.

Please contact the Cambridge Food Laboratory on 01954 782791 or via our contact page <http://www.salltd.co.uk/contact.jsp> for further details.

Eleanor Long

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