

Controls of pesticide residues in food Belgium 2010



Results of the official controls in accordance to Regulation (CE)
N°396/2005 and Commission Regulation (EC) N° 901/2009

Pesticide Residue Control Results

“National summary report”

Country: *BELGIUM*

Year: *2010*

National competent authority/organisation:

Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC)

Web address where the national annual report is published:

<http://www.afsca.be>

1. Objective and design of the national control programme

The approach used by the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) for the programming of analyses is risk based. The programme is drawn up following the general statistical approach employed within the FASFC¹. Several factors are taken into account: the toxicity of the active substances, food consumption figures, food commodities with high residues/non-compliance rate in previous monitoring years, origin of food (domestic, EU or third country), RASFF notifications and other useful information.

All groups of fruits and vegetables are included in the programme and a rolling programme is applied for less important commodities. The coordinated control programme of the European Commission and some targeted sampling (mainly targeted sampling at border controls according to Regulation 669/2009) are also included in the national programme.

Adjustments of the programme can be made during the course of the year in order to take into account emerging problem. As example, in 2010, samples of table grapes from India were added to the program due to the problematic of chloromequat.

The FASFC stipulates the target pesticides for each sample type. They are determined on a risk based approach taking into account the active substances authorised in Belgium, the result of previous control programmes in Belgium and other Member States, the RASFF and the analytical possibilities.

Sampling was done according to directive 2002/63/EC² implemented in the Belgian legislation. Samples were analysed in five different laboratories by means of multi-residues and single-residues methods.

2. Key findings, interpretation of the results and comparability with the previous year results

In 2010, a total number of 2932 samples of fruits, vegetables, cereals, animal products and processed products (including baby food) were taken by the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) and analysed for the presence of pesticide residues in application of Regulation (CE) N° 396/2005. 35% of these samples were produced in Belgium, 14,5% in EU, 48% outside the EU and 2,5% were of unknown origin.

Table 1 summarises the results with respect to the sampling strategy.

¹ Maudoux J-P., Saegerman C., Rettigner C., Houins G., Van Huffel X. & Berkvens D., Food safety surveillance by a risk based control programming: approach applied by the Belgian federal agency for the safety of the food chain (FASFC), Vet. Quart. 2006, 28(4): 140-154. <http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/publicationsthematiques/food-safety.asp>

² Commission Directive 2002/63/EC of 11 July 2002 establishing Community methods of sampling for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin and repealing Directive 79/700/EEC

Table 1 : Products analysed for pesticide residues in 2010 with respect to the sampling strategy

| Sampling strategy | Samples | Analysed | without residues | with residues at or below MRL | > MRL ³ | >MRL ⁴ (Non compliant) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Surveillance | Fruit & vegetables | 1854 | 31,2% | 64% | 4,8% | 2,4% |
| | Cereals | 22 | 22,7% | 72,8% | 4,5% | 0% |
| | Processed products (food) | 89 | 62,9% | 34,8% | 2,3% | 0% |
| | Animal products | 30 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Baby food | 91 | 98,9% | 1,1% | 0% | 0% |
| | Feed | 102 | 55,9% | 42,1% | 2% | 1% |
| | | 2188 | 37,3% | 58,4% | 4,3% | 2,1% |
| Enforcement | Fruit, vegetables & cereals | 744 | 50,1% | 35,8% | 14,1% | 10,6% |
| | TOTAL | 2932 | 40,5% | 52,7% | 6,8% | 4,3% |

A. Surveillance sampling

2188 surveillance samples were analysed in the framework of the control programme. 97,9% were compliant with the legislation.

Like previous years, products imported from third countries showed proportionally more MRL violations than products grown in BE or EU (see table A0 of the summary report).

Main MRL violations in fruit were observed in strawberries (from Egypt and Israël) and table grapes (from India). In vegetables, MRL violations were observed in chilipeppers (from Thailand and Ouganda), beans and peas (from Egypt and Kenya), tea and infusions (from China), celery and parsley (from Belgium).

B. Enforcement sampling

744 enforcement samples were analysed in the case of suspicion about the non compliance of a product to EU MRLs. These products were mainly targeted products analysed according to Regulation 669/2009 (products from Thailand, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, ...) and products analysed as follow-up of violations found previously. 89,4% were compliant with the legislation.

³ Measurement uncertainty is not taken into account (numerical MRL exceedances)

⁴ Measurement uncertainty is taken into account (samples non compliant)

MRL violations were mainly observed in products from Thailand (chilipeppers, aubergines and basilic), the Dominican Republic (beans and bitter meloen) and Ouganda (chilipepers).

Regarding to the scope of the pesticides analysed, more than 500 different pesticide were analysed for. The scope of the pesticide analysed was increased in 2010 (+30% in comparison with 2009).

When non-compliant samples are identified, the batch is seized, if available, and prevented from entering the market. An assessment of risk to the consumer is performed on all non-compliant samples and the appropriate measures such as recall and RASFF notification are taken⁵. Follow-up action is taken to verify the violation and to identify its cause. When non-compliant samples are identified, the producer or importer is subject to enhanced control and an official report is made and sent to the legal department of the FASFC which proposes a fine. If the fine is not paid, or in case of repeated offences, the matter is taken to court .

10 RASFF messages were issued in 2010. These products were not put on the market or recalled from the consumers.

3. Non-compliant samples: possible reasons and actions taken

In 2010, 2,1 % of the 2188 surveillance samples analysed (46 samples in total) were found non-compliant with the EU MRL. Figures 1 and 2 give an overview of the non compliant products with the importance of the non compliance with the MRL set in the EU legislation.

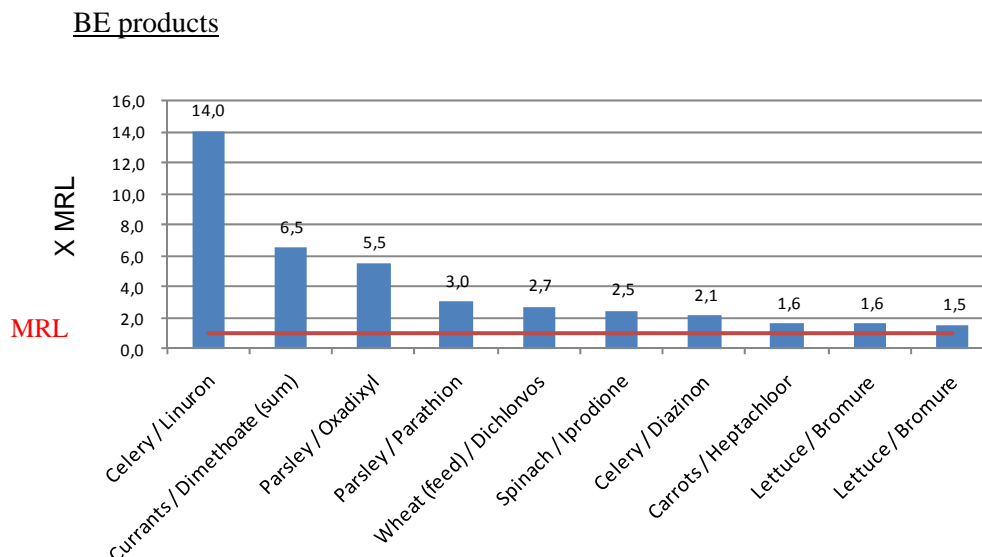


Figure 1 : Non compliant products originating from Belgium with information about the importance of the non compliances. The sample of celery containing linuron exceeded 14 times the MRL.

⁵ The actions to be taken in case a MRL is exceeded are described in a procedure available on the website of the FASFC (<http://www.afsca.be/publicationsthematiques/inventaire-actions.asp>).

Products from third countries

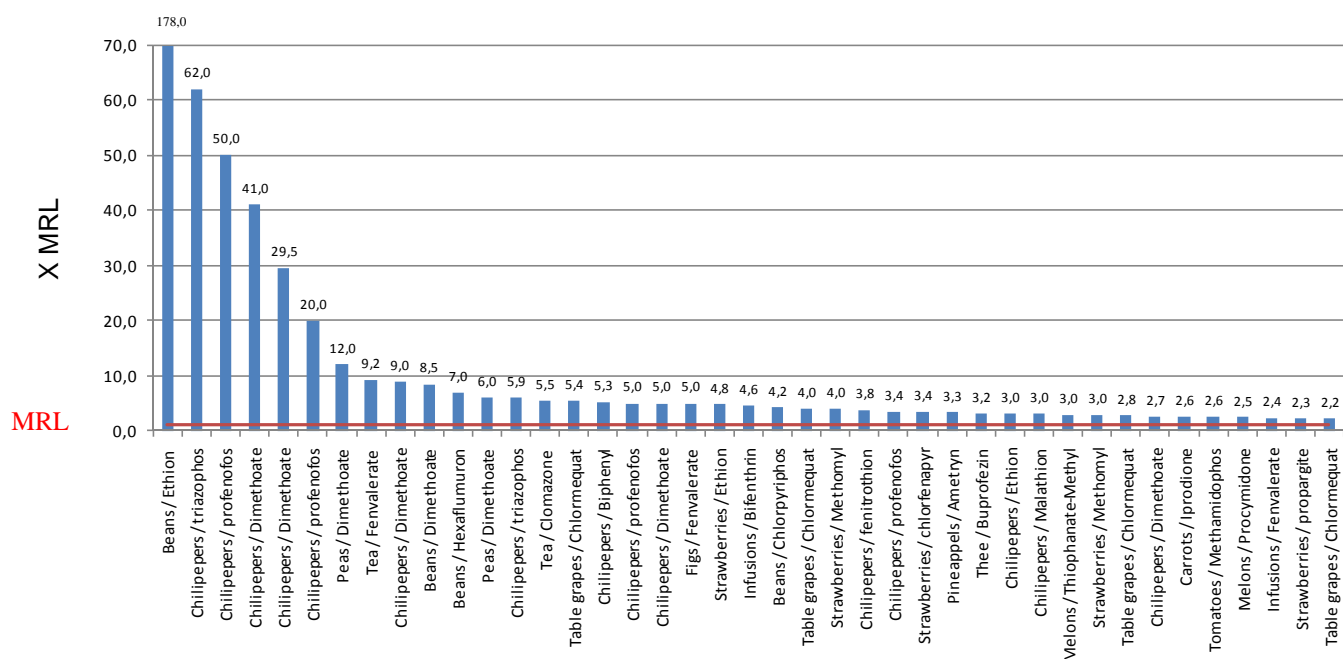


Figure 2 : Non compliant products originating from third countries. The sample of beans with ethion exceeded 178 times the MRL.

Reasons for MRL non-compliances for products originating from EU are described in table 2 below. Regarding the products originating from third countries, the reasons of MRL non-compliances are not known but non compliances are probably due to the use of authorised active substances in the exporting country but not in the EU.

| Product | Residue | Reason for MRL non compliance | Note |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| EU products | | | |
| Carrots | Heptachlor (sum) | Contamination: residues resulting from previous use of a pesticide (e.g. persistent pesticides no longer authorised, soil residues taken up in succeeding crops) | RASFF message was issued |
| Celery | Linuron | GAP not respected: use of pesticide authorised on the specific crop - application rate and/or application method not respected | |
| Celery | Diazinon | GAP not respected: use of non-authorised pesticide on all crops | |
| Currants | Dimethoate (sum) | GAP not respected: use of pesticide non-authorised on the specific crop | |
| Lettuce | Bromide ion | Contamination: residues resulting from previous use of a pesticide (e.g. persistent pesticides no longer authorised, soil residues taken up in succeeding crops) | |
| Parsley | Oxadixyl | Contamination: residues resulting from previous use of a pesticide (e.g. persistent pesticides no longer authorised, soil residues taken up in succeeding crops) | |
| Parsley | Parathion | GAP not respected: use of non-authorised pesticide on all crops | |
| Spinach | Iprodione | GAP not respected: use of pesticide non-authorised on the specific crop | |
| Wheat (feed) | Dichlorvos | GAP not respected: use of non-authorised pesticide on all crops | |
| | | | |

Table 2 : Reasons for MRL non compliances for products originating from EU (all from Belgium).

4. Quality assurance

Five accredited laboratories take part to the national control programme in 2010.

| Country code | Laboratory Name | Laboratory Code | Accreditation Date | Accreditation Body | Participation in proficiency tests or interlaboratory tests |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BE | Fytolab C.V.B.A | FYTOLAB | YES; latest version of accreditation certificate: 21/06/2011 | BELAC | EUPT-C4 rye (lab 84) EUPT-AO 05 pork (lab 25) EUPT-FV SM 02 leeks (lab 24) EUPT-FV 12 leeks (lab 36) QS-autumn red currant puree (lab 37) EUPT SRM5 apple puree (lab 22) Fapas PT0573 hydrogenated vegetable oil (lab 11) Relana grapes undercover sample (lab 8) |
| BE | Wetenschappelijk Instituut Volksgezondheid (WIV) – Institut Scientifique de Santé Publique (ISP) | WIV-PEST | YES; latest version of accreditation certificate: 22/06/2010 | BELAC | EUPT AO 05 (lab 30) EUPT-SRM5 (lab 14) EUPT-C4 (lab 6) EUPT-FV12 (lab 148) ANSES 2010 (study ACA-CF-MI-10-04) (lab 11) FAPAS 19106 (lab 27) |
| BE | Centre d'Economie Rurale - Laboratoire d'hormonologie animale | CER | YES; latest version of accreditation certificate: 18/05/2011 | BELAC | EUPT AO 05 (lab 39) |
| DE | LUFA-ITL GmbH | LUFA | YES; latest version of accreditation certificate: 18/06/2010 | DAkKS | EUPT-SRM5 - apple puree (lab Nr. 50) Pesticide PT EUPT-FV12 Leek, (lab Nr. 067) Pesticide EUPT-C4 Rice (lab Nr. 24) LVU 163-17a-Pesticide-2010 - Pesticides in low-fat food (lab Nr. 08) CRL EUPT AO 04 Pesticides in butter (lab Nr. 061) |
| NL | Grond-, Gewas- en Milieu-laboratorium "Zeeuws-Vlaanderen" BV | ZEEUWS | YES; latest version of accreditation certificate: 08/06/2011 | RvA | FAPAS 19101 (lab 99) FAPAS 19103 (lab 82) FAPAS 19105 (lab 69) FAPAS 19106 (lab 86) FAPAS 19108 (lab 53) FAPAS 19110 (lab 154) FAPAS 19111 (lab 49) FAPAS 19113 (lab 36) QS- spring (lab 67) QS-autumn (lab 23) |

5. Additional Information

- Only products of animal origin analysed in the frame of the EU coordinated programme are part of this report. Additional controls on products of animal origin are carried out in application of directive 96/23/CE⁶ and are reported separately to the European Commission.
- Only organic food analysed in the frame of the EU coordinated programme are part of this report. Additional controls on organic food are carried out by the Belgian Regional Authorities which are in charge of organic production. The results of these controls are reported separately to the European Commission.
- More information regarding pesticide residues in Belgium and their control can be found on <http://www.afsca.be> and <http://www.fytoweb.fgov.be>

⁶ Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC