



Technical Webinar EU rules for Nigeria's agri-food product imports

5 March 2026



Today's webinar



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- ❑ Brief introduction to AGRINFO programme
- ❑ Part I: Food safety rules
 - Contaminants: Focus on new rules on mineral oils
 - Pesticide MRLs: Today's and upcoming challenges
- ❑ Part II: Sustainability initiatives
 - EU Deforestation Regulation
 - New packaging rules
- ❑ Questions and answers

Further questions? e-mail: agrinfo@colead.link

In brief

AGRINFO – www.agrinfo.eu



Funded by
the European Union



Towards a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system: supporting compliance with EU regulatory and non-regulatory measures



Implemented by COLEAD, a Brussels-based not-for-profit private sector organisation that manages development programmes in the agriculture and food sector (mainly in ACP States) funded by donors, amongst which the EU is the most important.

An open access portal: www.agrinfo.eu that provides up-to-date information on all recent and upcoming changes to EU rules that have an impact on agri-food and fish value chains

While AGRINFO is an EU-funded programme, this presentation does not reflect the views of the European Commission

Why AGRINFO?

Monitor

EU introduces approx.
180 new or changes to
agri-food rules every
year

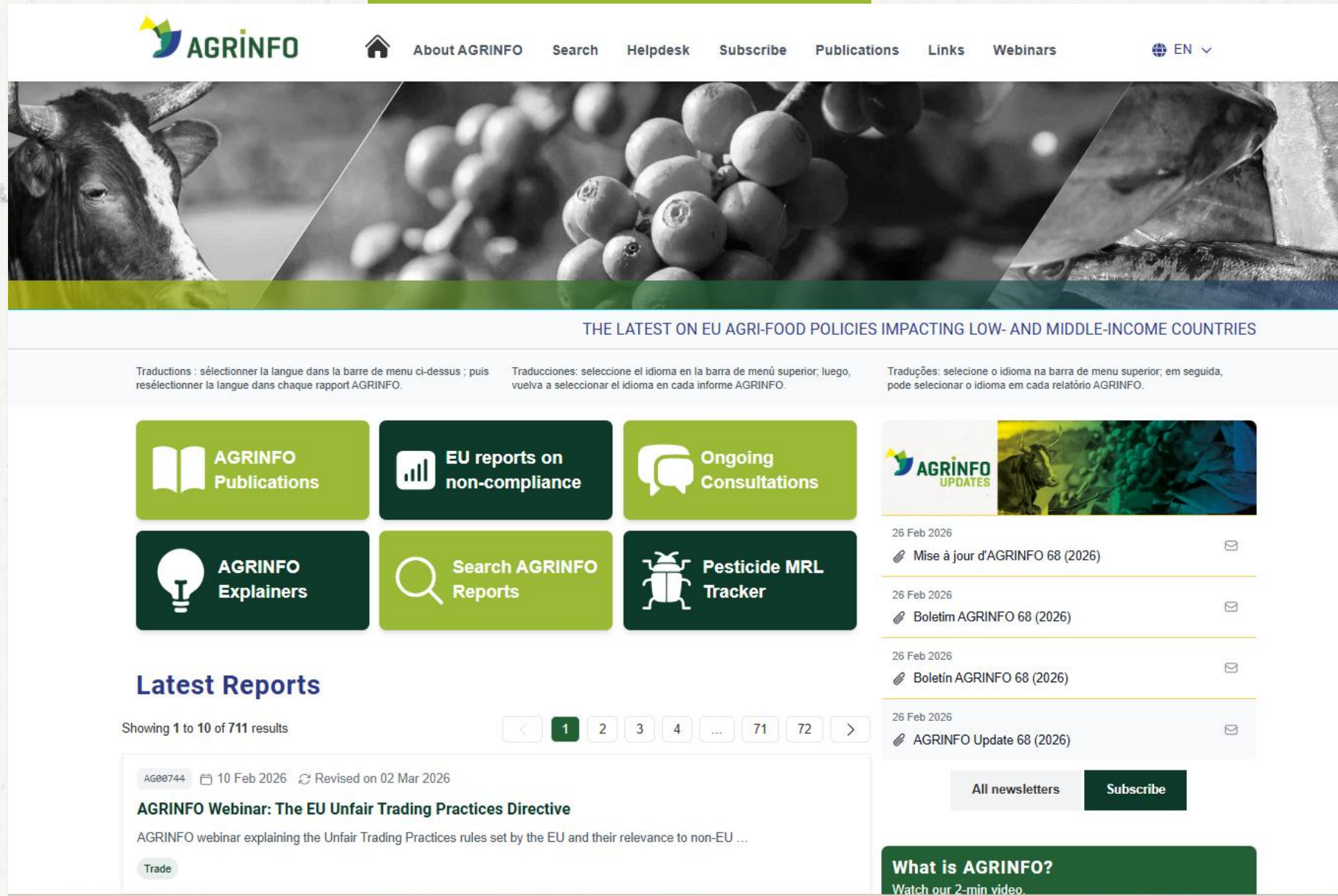
Consolidate



Simplify

provides clear,
accessible
explanations of what
rules are changing,
why and implications

The website www.agrinfo.eu



The screenshot shows the AGRINFO website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the AGRINFO logo, a home icon, and links for 'About AGRINFO', 'Search', 'Helpdesk', 'Subscribe', 'Publications', 'Links', and 'Webinars'. A language dropdown menu is set to 'EN'. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image featuring a cow, a bunch of blueberries, and a pig. Underneath the banner, a headline reads 'THE LATEST ON EU AGRI-FOOD POLICIES IMPACTING LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES'. A multilingual notice follows, providing instructions in French, Spanish, and Portuguese on how to select a language in the menu. The main content area is divided into several sections: a grid of six service tiles (Publications, EU reports on non-compliance, Ongoing Consultations, Explainers, Search AGRINFO Reports, and Pesticide MRL Tracker), a 'Latest Reports' section with a pagination bar showing 1 to 10 of 711 results, and a featured report titled 'AGRINFO Webinar: The EU Unfair Trading Practices Directive'. On the right side, there is a 'Newsletters' section with a list of recent updates and a 'Subscribe' button. At the bottom right, a 'What is AGRINFO?' section includes a link to a 2-minute video.

AGRINFO

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THE LATEST ON EU AGRI-FOOD POLICIES IMPACTING LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Traductions : sélectionner la langue dans la barre de menu ci-dessus ; puis, résélectionner la langue dans chaque rapport AGRINFO. Traducciones: seleccione el idioma en la barra de menú superior; luego, vuelva a seleccionar el idioma en cada informe AGRINFO. Traduções: seleccione o idioma na barra de menu superior; em seguida, pode selecionar o idioma em cada relatório AGRINFO.

AGRINFO Publications

EU reports on non-compliance

Ongoing Consultations

AGRINFO Explainers

Search AGRINFO Reports

Pesticide MRL Tracker

AGRINFO UPDATES

26 Feb 2026
✉ Mise à jour d'AGRINFO 68 (2026)

26 Feb 2026
✉ Boletim AGRINFO 68 (2026)

26 Feb 2026
✉ Boletim AGRINFO 68 (2026)

26 Feb 2026
✉ AGRINFO Update 68 (2026)

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Latest Reports

Showing 1 to 10 of 711 results

AG00744 10 Feb 2026 Revised on 02 Mar 2026

AGRINFO Webinar: The EU Unfair Trading Practices Directive

AGRINFO webinar explaining the Unfair Trading Practices rules set by the EU and their relevance to non-EU ...

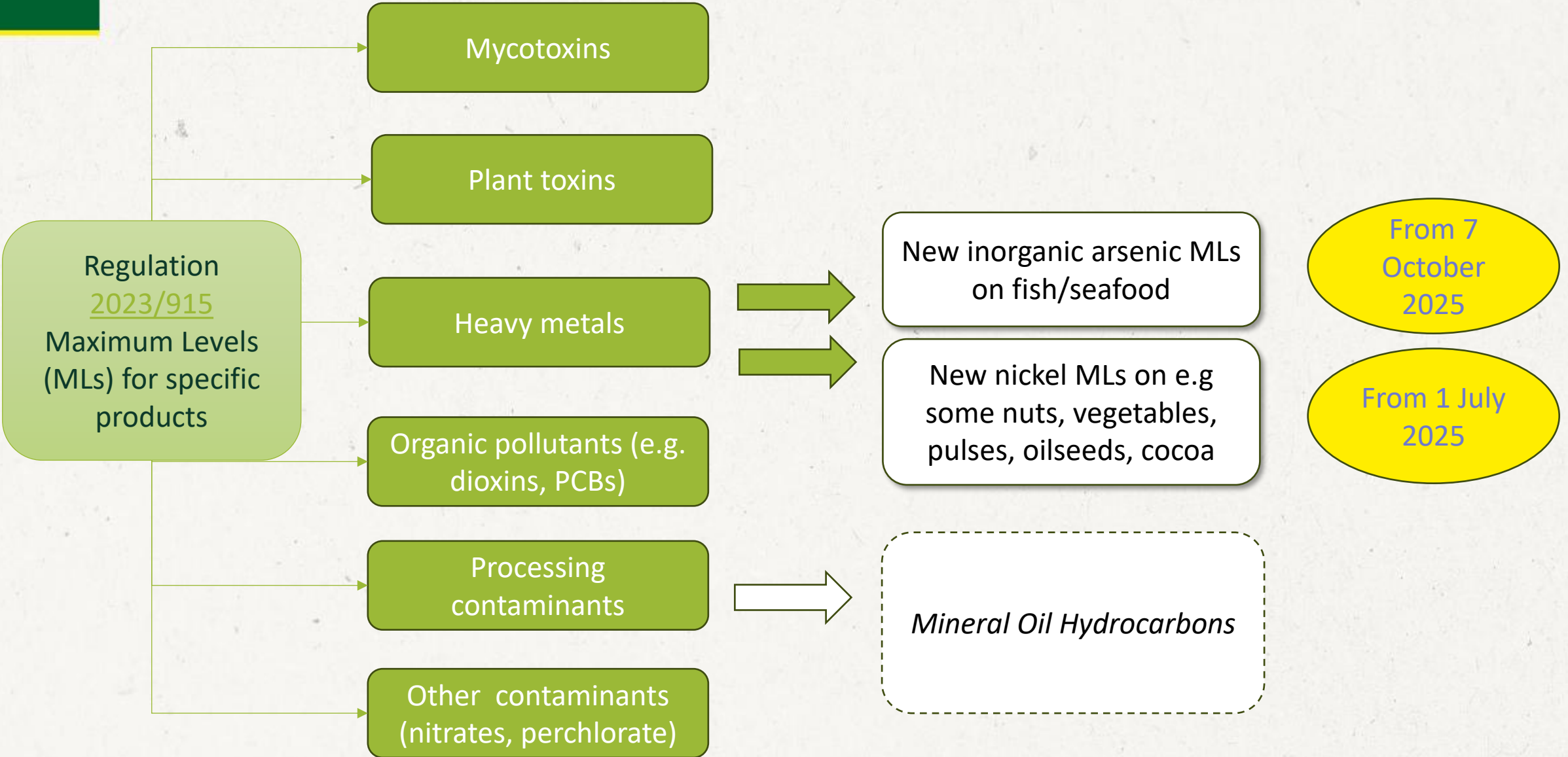
Trade

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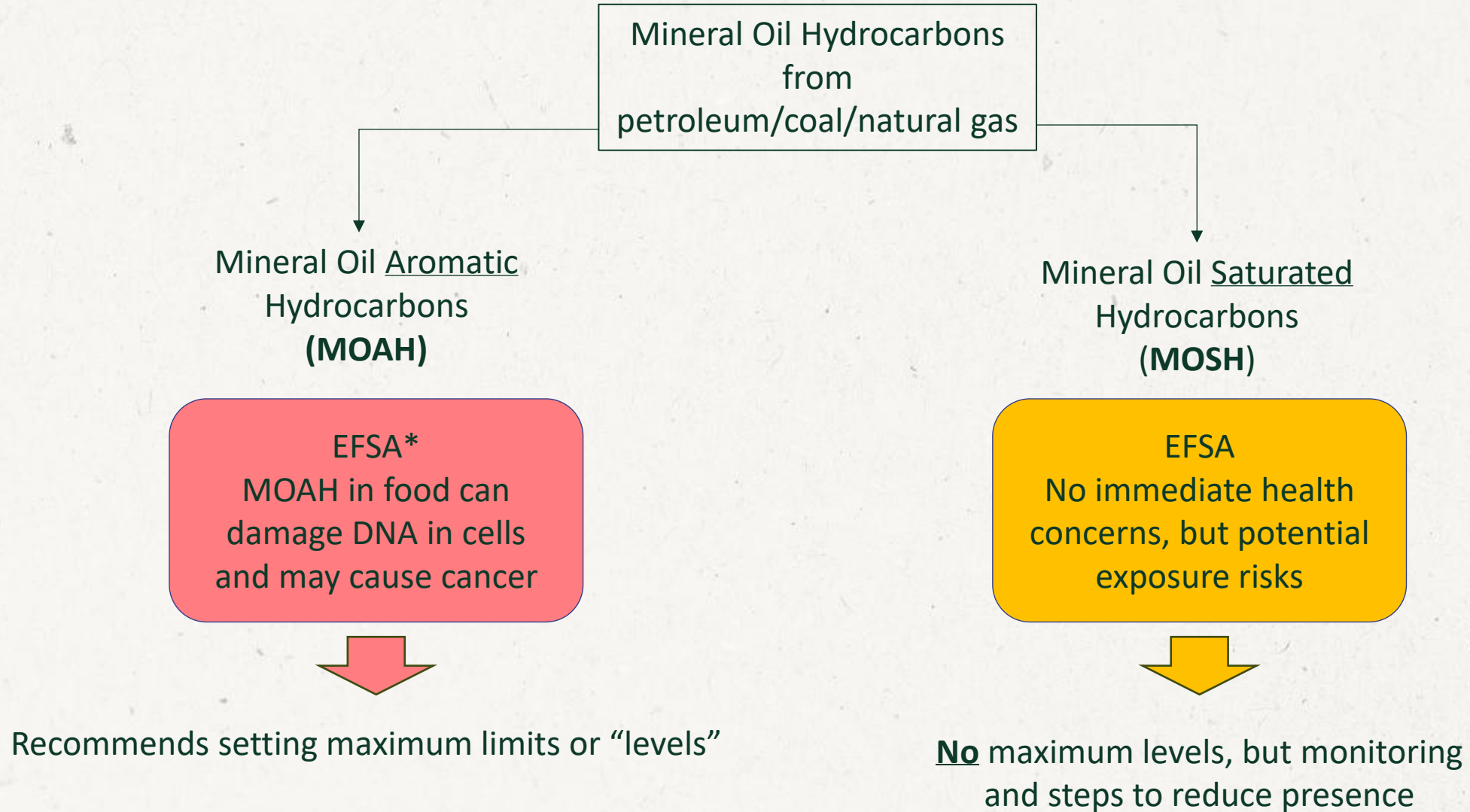
Part I: Food safety rules

Contaminants: Upcoming new rules on Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons?

EU Rules on contaminants: Overview



Why EU action on Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons?



*European Food Safety Authority

The rules today

- No maximum levels for MOAH (MLs)
- **But** all food on the EU market must be safe*
- In light of the EFSA evaluation, Commission/ Member States agree on common approach to managing MOAH in food**
- EU Member States to take action e.g. withdraw, and if necessary, recall products where they detect levels of MOAH in food > Limit of Quantification (LOQ)

In 2024/2025, consignments of flour, oils, rice, cereal and potato snacks, butter, cheese, spices intercepted at EU border due to presence of MOAH

*Article 14 of General Food Law (Regulation [178/2002](#))

** Statements of the Standing Committee Plants, Animals, Food and Feed ([June 2020](#), [April 2022](#), [October 2022](#))

The maximum levels under discussion to apply from 2027 (target date)

Maximum levels under discussion 'as low as reasonably achievable', generally Limit of Quantification (LOQ) on:

- Oilseeds and oil fruits
- Animal or vegetable fats/oils (**temporary MLs > LOQ until 2030 for some**)
- Tree nuts*
- Pulses
- Cereal grains including rice and products derived from cereals
- Milk and dairy products**
- Cocoa beans***, cocoa mass, cocoa powder, cocoa and chocolate products and other confectionary



- **0.5 mg/kg** for dry foods with a low fat/oil content ($\leq 4\%$ fat/oil)
- **1 mg/kg** for foods with a higher fat/oil content ($> 4\%$ fat/oil, $\leq 50\%$ fat/oil)
- **2 mg/kg** for fats/oils or foods with $> 50\%$ fat/oil content

* Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine kernels, pistachios, walnuts.

** Exception for butter: 2 mg/kg whatever the fat content.

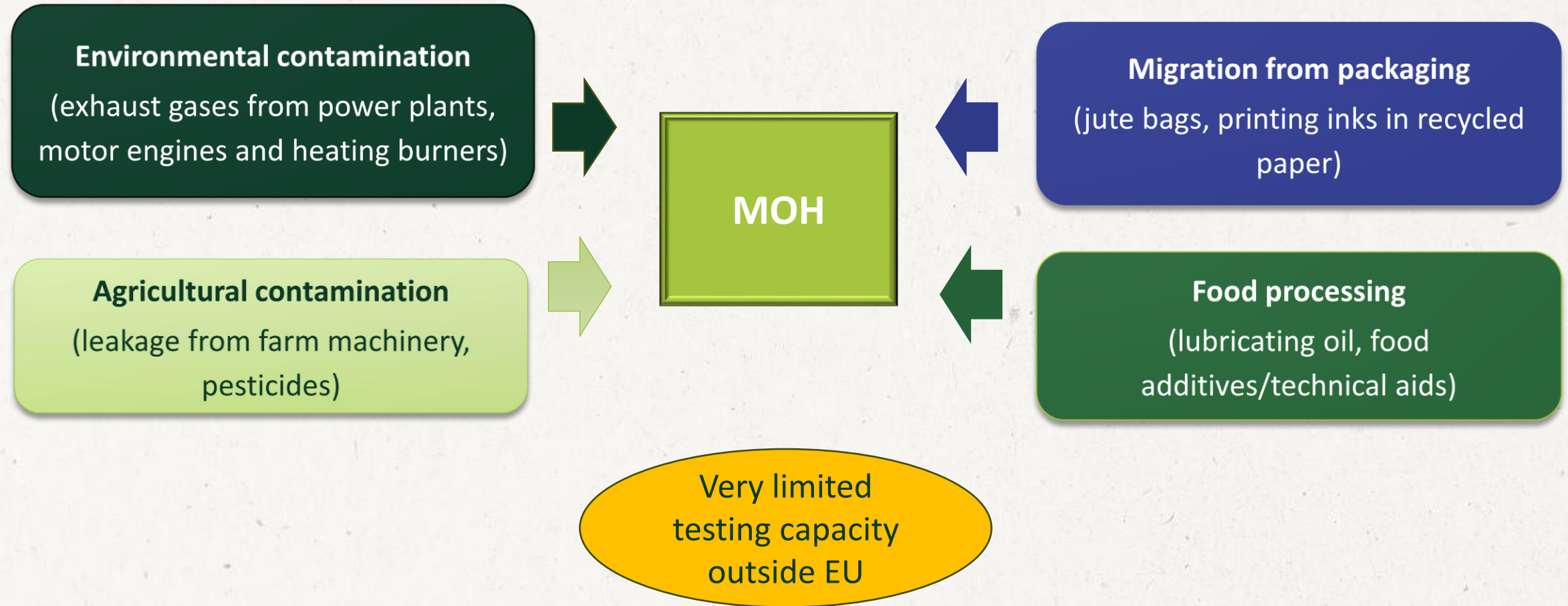
*** The ML applies to the edible part. Possible delay for introducing MLs for cocoa beans under discussion.

Impact of establishing maximum levels in the EU law?

- ❑ Clearer rules with specific levels for specific products
- ❑ Probable increase in controls of MOH across the EU
- ❑ More consistent approach to enforcement, non-placement on the market of foods containing MOAH
- ❑ Increased demands from European companies to suppliers of evidence of compliance with MOAH maximum levels

- **Spices, dried herbs, tea and herbal infusions that are used as an ingredient in food, dry instant coffee/tea, and dry instant herbal infusions:** maximum level (ML) under discussion at the LOQ of 5 mg/kg (reflecting analytical complexity)
- No maximum levels are under discussion for fresh or frozen fruits, vegetables, meat, offal, fish and seafood, coffee and tea and herbal infusions for making a brew, as not significant sources of MOAH.
- For processed foods (vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat, offal, fish and seafood) and essential oils insufficient data available to establish need for MLs.

The major challenges



EU MOAH maximum levels: next steps

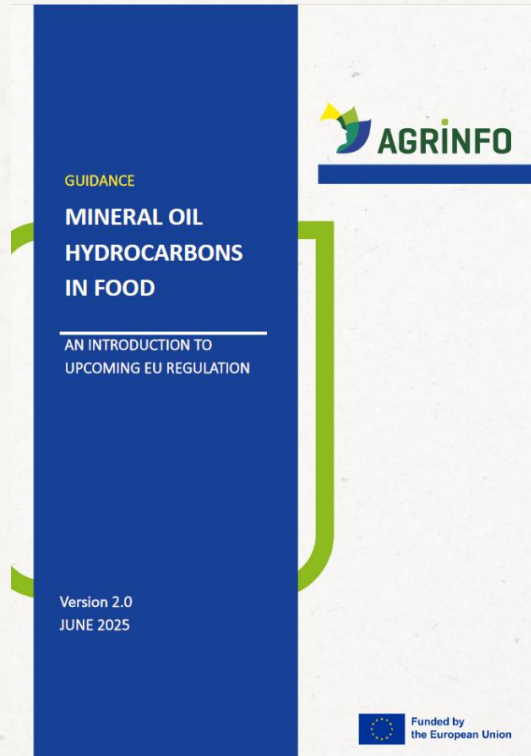
Target timeframe



WTO country members can submit comments, via the [National SPS notification authority](#) of the country concerned, to the [EU SPS Enquiry Point](#) within 60 days of notification

Further information

Guidance document



[https://agrinfo.eu/documents/56/AGRINFO -
Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons in Food 2024-
cc_NnhGSbc.pdf](https://agrinfo.eu/documents/56/AGRINFO_-_Mineral_Oil_Hydrocarbons_in_Food_2024-cc_NnhGSbc.pdf)

Webinar (recording)



[https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/agrinfo-
webinar-upcoming-eu-rules-on-mineral-oil-
hydrocarbons-moh/](https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/agrinfo-webinar-upcoming-eu-rules-on-mineral-oil-hydrocarbons-moh/)

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Part I: Food safety rules

Pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs):
today's and upcoming challenges

Changes to EU pesticide MRLs



EU typically amends Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) on > 50 pesticides per year:

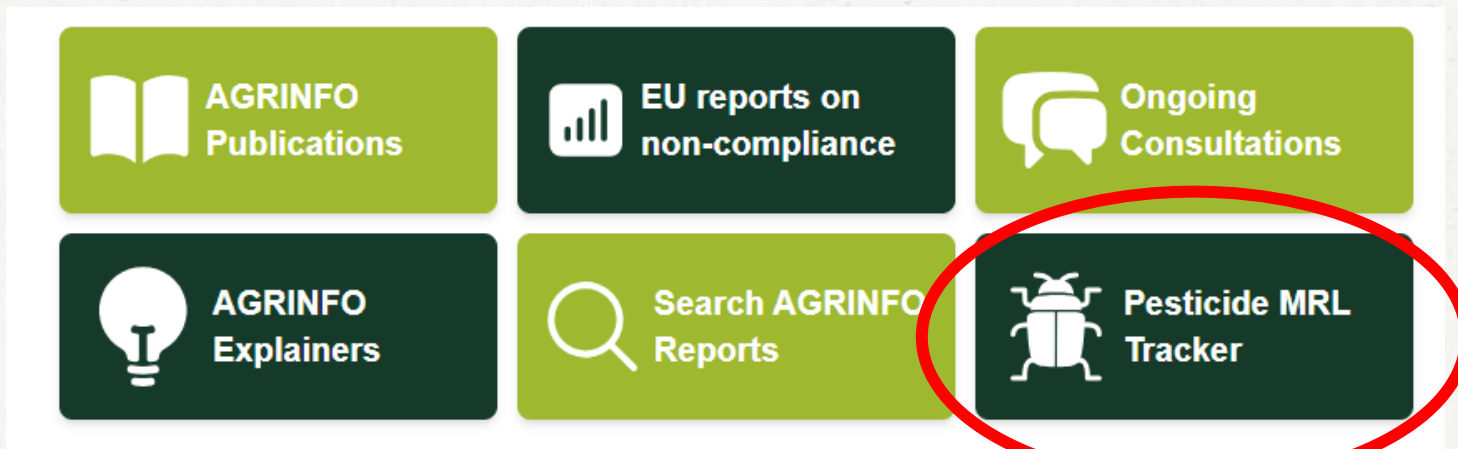
- when pesticides are no longer authorised for use in the EU
- regular risk assessment review of existing MRLs
- to align MRLs with international standards (Codex Alimentarius)

Today's challenges for exporters

- Difficult to follow all upcoming developments – even if information is available (e.g. EU notifications to World Trade Organization)
- Difficult to have an overview of all changes per product
- Even if following notifications, may be too late to make adjustments to agricultural practices to avoid obstacles to trade

2. AGRINFO Pesticide MRL Tracker

On home page: <https://agrinfo.eu/>



- All recent and upcoming changes consolidated in one tool
- Allows for MRL overview per product
- Updated on a weekly basis
- Gives maximum warning of potential changes (up to 3 years)

2026: EU discuss stricter MRLs on imported products

2 separate rules: pesticide approvals & pesticide MRLs

Approval of pesticides for use in the EU
Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009

What is permitted in the EU?

EU Active substances database:

<https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/start/screen/active-substances>

Active substances, safeners and synergists (1474 matching records)

Imidacloprid Expiry of Approval : 01/12/2020	NOT APPROVED
Iminoctadine	NOT APPROVED
Indanofan	NOT APPROVED
Indaziflam	NOT APPROVED
Indolylacetic acid (aka auxins)	NOT APPROVED
Indolylbutyric acid Expiry of Approval : 31/01/2028	APPROVED
Indoxacarb Expiry of Approval : 19/12/2021	NOT APPROVED
Inpyrfluxam (S-2399)	PENDING

Setting of maximum residue limits (MRLs)
Regulation 396/2005

- MRL setting is a separate process
- A substance can be “not approved” for use in the EU **but** have an EU MRL that applies to products from non-EU countries
- These are known as **import tolerances**

BUT e.g. MRL for groundnuts for imidacloprid of 0.5 mg/kg

Why is the EU rediscussing import tolerances?

Underlying rationale for import tolerances

Other countries need different tools due to different environments, pests & diseases; MRLs (“import tolerances”) can be set for these pesticides provided they are safe for consumers

Pressure For Change

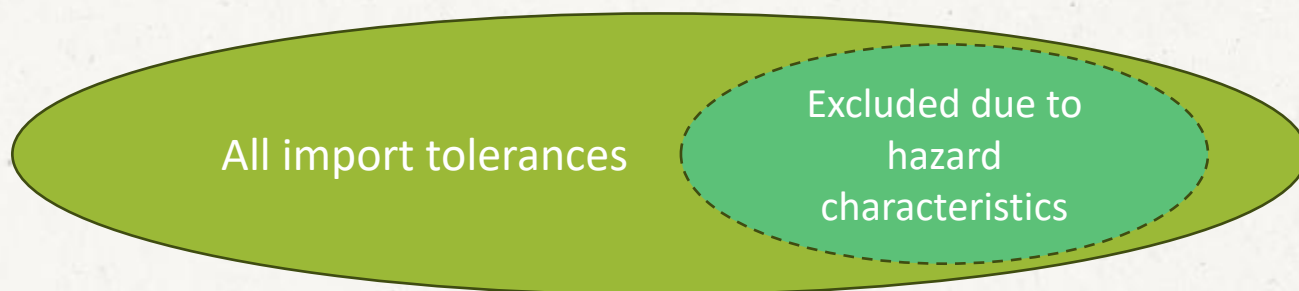


- substantial reduction of pesticides available for EU farmers (76 substances withdrawn/expired in last five years)
- Many pesticides not approved for use in the EU can still be used in non-EU countries
- EU farmers argue this creates “unfair playing field” and they cannot compete
- Critics of pesticides point to risks to consumers, although all import tolerances are based on risk assessment

Commission's proposed new approach

Aim: To more closely align EU approaches to approving pesticides and setting MRLs

Import tolerances to be lowered to 0.01mg/kg or LOQ* for **most hazardous** non-approved pesticides e.g. those identified as mutagen category 1A or 1B, carcinogen category 1A or 1B, toxic for reproduction category 1A or 1B, endocrine-disrupting properties



But difficult to say at this stage *which* or *how many* import tolerances will be lowered as:

- MRLs would not be lowered automatically, but following an “impact assessment”
- not all pesticides have been assessed/categorised according to all hazard criteria
- criteria could change: Commission proposal to be discussed by the Council (Member States) and European Parliament who may call for more/all import tolerances to be removed to end “unfair playing field”

Possible impact

An example:



Total no. of substances with EU
MRLs > LOQ **91**

Of these, number of “import tolerances”
i.e. substances not approved in EU **22**

To assess potential impact, each sector is advised to :

1. check which pesticides authorised for use in Nigeria are not approved in the EU
2. asses the impact of not being able to use these pesticides for products intended for EU market

New approach to MRLs
from approx. 2028/2029

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Part II: EU sustainability initiatives

EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
Regulation 2023/1115

Aims of the EUDR

Cattle



Coffee



Cocoa



Palm oil



Soya



No deforestation must have taken place after 31 December 2020 on land on which these commodities are being produced

Information required from suppliers:

- geolocation of the plot of land where the products were grown using digital applications
- date/time range of production
- as requested by importers, information to show that product produced in line with the relevant laws of the country of production

EUDR to apply from
30 December 2026

Latest developments

Country risk categorisation

Regulation 2025/1093

European Commission has categorised countries according to risk of deforestation:

- **High risk:** Belarus, North Korea, Myanmar, Russia
- **Low risk:** 114 non-EU countries
- **Standard risk:** those countries not listed above, including Nigeria

For EU imports from **standard** risk countries:

- EU national authorities must control **3%** of operators supplying the affected products to the EU market:

Simplifications

Regulation 2025/2650

- Only operators first placing impacted products on the EU market must verify compliance and submit due diligence statements to the EUDR system
- Companies that subsequently sell or process these products (*downstream operators*) must no longer submit their own due diligence statements
 - First downstream operator must still be registered in the EUDR information system and pass on the commodities reference numbers
- “Micro and small primary operators” who put their own products on the EU market can make a one-time simplified declaration of EUDR conformity (no full due diligence statement)

Resources

European Commission:

- [Guidance Document](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)
- [Implementation of the EUDR portal](#)
- [EUDR Myth Buster](#)

AGRINFO:

- [Guidance document](#)
- [EUDR overview](#)
- [Country benchmarking according to deforestation risk](#)
- [Simplification overview](#)

For more publications and resources – see:

<https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/eu-deforestation-regulation-publications-and-resources/>

AGRINFO Guidance document



<https://agrinfo.eu/documents/171/The-EU-Deforestation-Regulation.pdf>

02.

Part II: EU sustainability initiatives

New packaging rules



What do EU packaging rules cover?

primary / sales packaging

in direct contact with the product



secondary / grouped packaging

bundles multiple packaging units at the point of sale (sold as such or used for stocking)



tertiary / transport packaging

protects products for safe shipping and handling, e.g. shipping containers, transit packaging, and boxes, incl. e-commerce packaging



disposable tea, coffee, or other beverage bags

intended to be used and disposed of together with the product (permeable & non-permeable)



service packaging

designed and intended to be filled at the point of sale to dispense the product

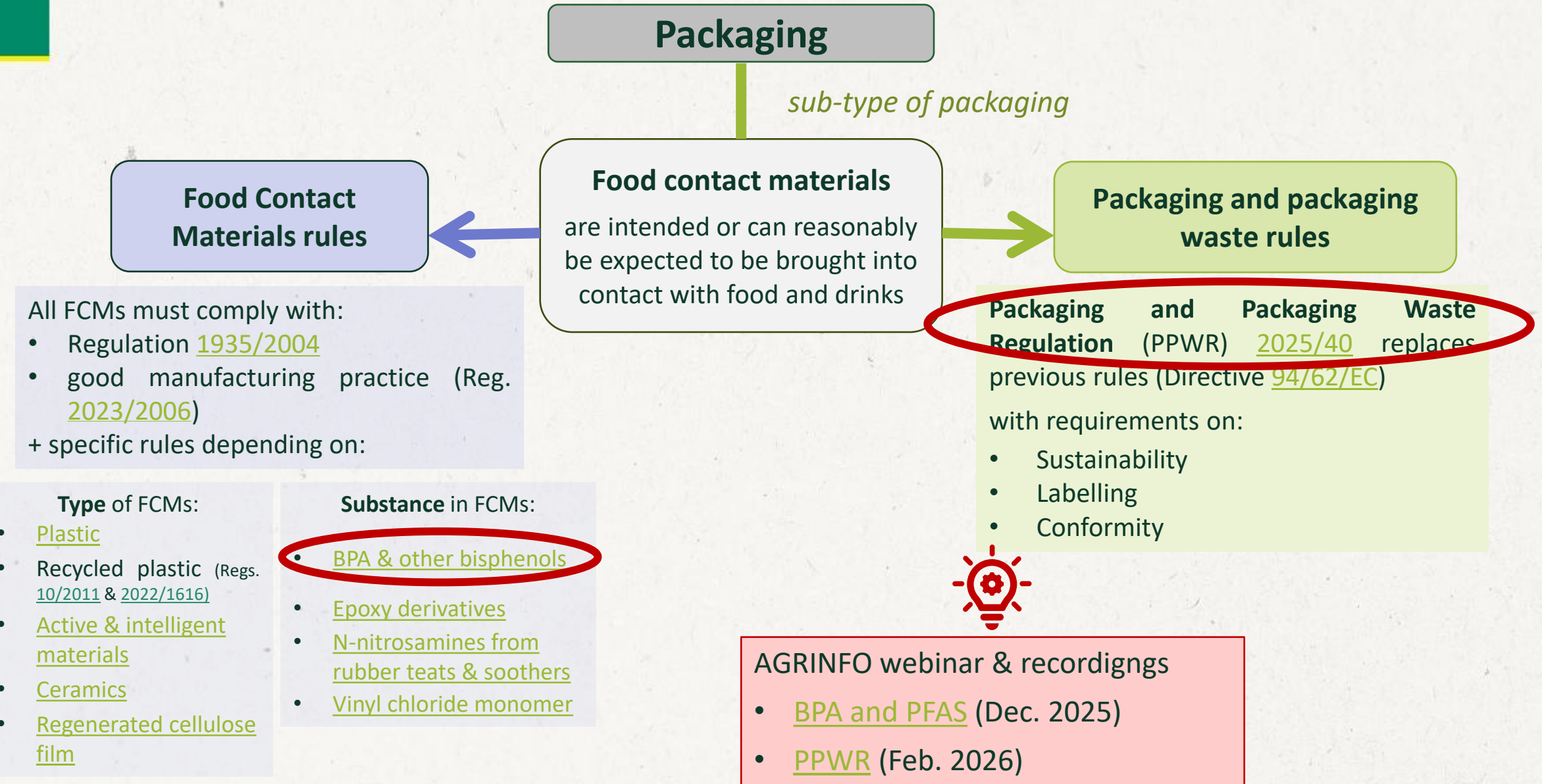


food contact material
(packaging sub-type)

- materials in contact with food/drinks
- materials used in food processing



New EU rules on food contact material



BPA ban in food contact materials



BPA can migrate from packaging into food which could have adverse health effects, esp. on the immune system.



Intentional use of Bisphenol A (BPA) and other *hazardous* bisphenol derivatives is prohibited in FCMs ([Regulation 2024/3190](#)) from :

20 July 2026 for :

- adhesives and printing inks
- varnishes and coatings applied to surfaces of food packaging (cans, tins, jar lids)
- rubbers, ion-exchange resins
- plastics, silicones

20 January 2028 for FCM used for:

- packaged fruit & vegetables (not fruit juices and nectars) and fishery products
- food in containers where a varnish or coating manufactured using BPA has been applied only to the *exterior* metal surface

No BPA-ban in paper and board; intentional use is nevertheless not advisable.



A **declaration of compliance** (Annex III [Reg. 2024/3190](#)) stating that Bisphenols were not intentionally used must accompany food contact materials at all stages of the supply chain. *Laboratory analysis are not required.*



Analytical control is only required for FCMs manufactured with non-hazardous bisphenols (derivates): they must not contain any residual BPA content.

- Challenge to find laboratories offering this analysis (low detection limit)
- Sample might be contaminated during transport or by insufficient lab equipment

BPA ban: timeline

General rule



Empty packaging
One year to fill



Unlimited sale until stocks exhausted



Exceptions



Fruits/vegetables & fish/fish products



Lacquers applied to the outer side of cans



Empty packaging

One year to fill

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

2025/40

Most relevant PPWR sustainability requirements for agri-food exporters (1/2):

- **Substances of concern** (from August 2026):
 - Minimised throughout life cycle (incl. recycling)
 - PFAS concentration limits in food-contact packaging
 - Sum of concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium < 100 mg/kg packaging
- **Ban of certain packaging formats** (from January 2030), including **single use plastic**:
 - packaging for fresh fruit and vegetables below 1.5 kg
 - for grouped packaging (shrink wrap)
 - sachets for sugar, condiments, coffee creamer, seasoning
- **Labelling**:
 - From August 2028: use of specific labels on packaging to inform about its composition, reusability and waste sorting
 - From 12 February 2029: EU reuse label
 - From January 2030: substances of concern must be identified on primary packaging
 - Voluntary information about bio-based plastic content, recycled plastic content
 - Additional QR code possible

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

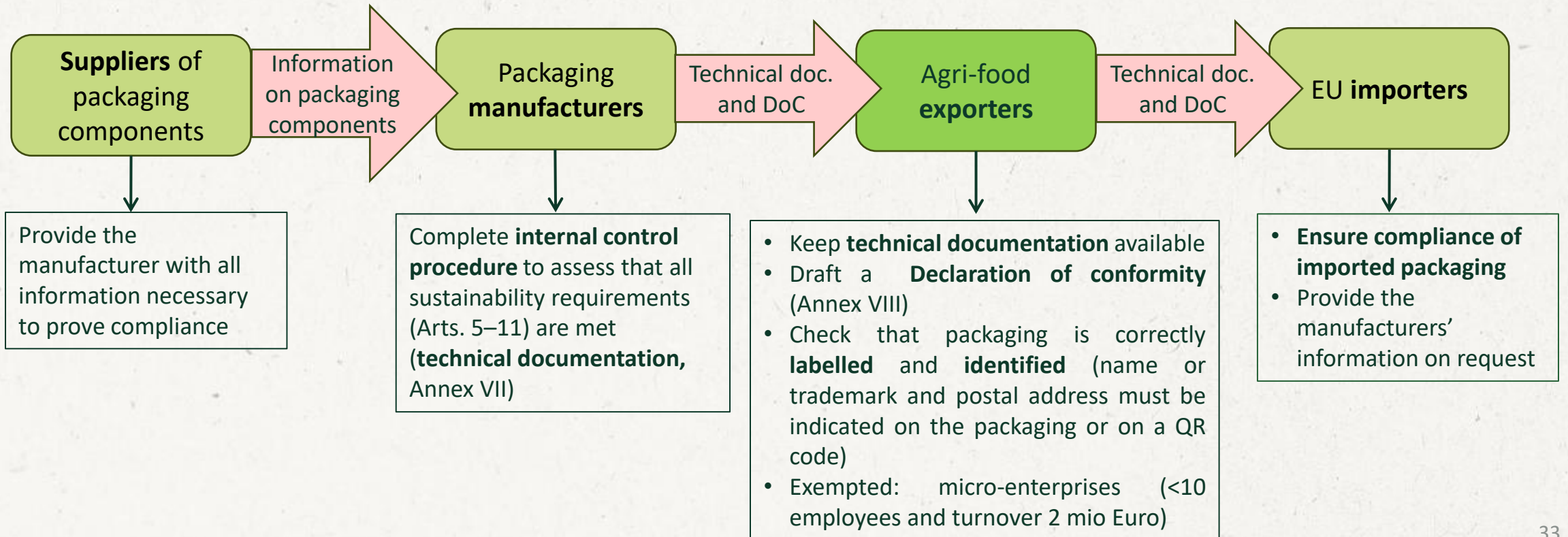
2025/40

Most relevant PPWR sustainability requirements for agri-food exporters (1/2):

- Packaging must be **designed for recycling** (from January 2030 – criteria available by 2028)
 - Per material category
 - Recyclability Performance Grade Scoring
- **Minimum recycled content** in plastic packaging (from January 2030 – calculation method available by Dec 2026)
 - For food packaging: 10% by 2030; 25% by 2040
 - Per packaging type; per manufacturing plant; per year
- **Compostable packaging** (from February 2028):
 - **Sticky labels on fruit and vegetables, and single use tea and coffee bags** have to be *industrially* compostable
 - EU Countries can request this packaging to be additionally *home* compostable
 - Compostable material used for other applications must be also recyclable
 - Exempt from recycled content obligation
- **Packaging Minimisation** (calculation method available by Feb 2028)
 - By 2028 sales packaging minimized
 - By 2030, packaging designed with minimum weight and volume (performance criteria)
 - By 2030, empty space ratio of sales, transport and grouped packaging max 50%
 - By, calculation method established

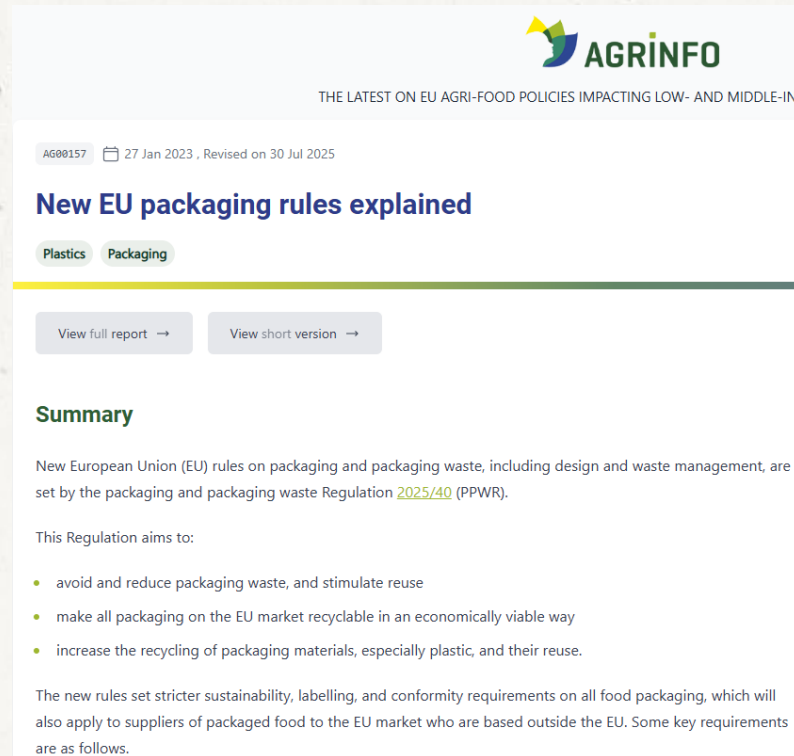
PPWR conformity requirements

- From 12 August 2026, information and documentation necessary to prove the conformity of the packaging and the packaging materials must be passed along the value chain in form of:
 - **Technical documentation** (Annex VII)
 - **Declaration of Conformity (DoC)** (Annex VIII)
- **All** supply chain operators must share information to prove compliance with the PPWR.
- One **Declaration of conformity (DoC)** per packaging/packaged product to continuously update (e.g. change in packaging)



Further information

AGRINFO resources



AGRINFO
THE LATEST ON EU AGRI-FOOD POLICIES IMPACTING LOW- AND MIDDLE-INC

AG00157 | 27 Jan 2023, Revised on 30 Jul 2025

New EU packaging rules explained

Plastics Packaging

View full report → View short version →

Summary

New European Union (EU) rules on packaging and packaging waste, including design and waste management, are set by the packaging and packaging waste Regulation [2025/40](#) (PPWR).

This Regulation aims to:

- avoid and reduce packaging waste, and stimulate reuse
- make all packaging on the EU market recyclable in an economically viable way
- increase the recycling of packaging materials, especially plastic, and their reuse.

The new rules set stricter sustainability, labelling, and conformity requirements on all food packaging, which will also apply to suppliers of packaged food to the EU market who are based outside the EU. Some key requirements are as follows.

<https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/new-eu-packaging-rules-explained/>

Webinar (recording)



YouTube^{BE} Rechercher

EU Packaging and Packaging Waste legislation

Unfold the new packaging rules for agri-food operators supplying the EU markets

26 February 2026

AGRINFO

0:00 / 1:15:21

<https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/agrinfo-webinar-new-eu-rules-on-packaging-and-packaging-waste-ppwr/>



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AGRINFO UPDATE 68 (2026)
Posted 25 February 2026

[Français](#) | [Español](#) | [Português](#)

Welcome to Issue 68 of AGRINFO UPDATE. This issue highlights opportunities for stakeholders within and outside the European Union to give feedback on proposals on the classification of high-risk plants and temporary exceptions from plant health import bans; and on the European Commission's development of guidelines for implementing the Forced Labour Regulation. Recently published regulations include updated marketing standards for poultrymeat, and the authorisation of two new flavourings. Two explainers on EU requirements to export animal products have been updated to reflect questions raised by AGRINFO users.

LATEST

New Regulations or policies under development

 **Plant health**
 EU requests feedback by **4 March** on proposals to:

- Standardise how it decides which imported plants and plant products are **classified as high-risk** for plant health
- Define how non-EU countries must request **temporary derogations** from plant health import bans or specific requirements (**WTO SPS** consultation on this proposal also open until **11 April**)

 **Forced labour**
 EU invites input in developing guidelines on Forced Labour Regulation – feedback by **6 March** [Read](#)

 **Pesticide MRLs**
 EU discusses:

- reducing **diazinon** MRLs on various products
- increasing **imazalil** MRLs on bananas and citrus fruits; and reducing MRLs on courgettes, cucumbers, gherkins, and melons



Questions & Answers

| Thank you



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