

EN
E-001938/2024
Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.11.2024)

Member State authorities are responsible for the control and enforcement of the maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides. Where they identify an exceedance of a MRLs, they perform a consumer exposure assessment and take enforcement actions as needed. These actions may include, for example, prohibiting the placing of products on the market or recalling products from the market. Moreover, if pesticide residues are found at a level of concern for consumers, through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), they can notify the non-compliance and inform on the measures taken to protect consumers. None of the existing RASFF notifications related to propargite involve honey or honey-related products.

Beeswax, not being foodstuff, is not covered by specific MRLs established by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ which applies to food and feed only. However, there are specific MRLs established for honey for all non-approved substances, including propargite, which are controlled by the Member States. Should there be cross-contamination from beeswax to honey (e.g. within the hives or later in the production chain), this would be identified by detectable residues levels in honey and be followed up by Member States' enforcement authorities.

Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/832 of 5 June 2018² set the MRLs for propargite in honey at the specific limit of determination, which means technical zero. The value for this limit of determination (0.05 mg/kg in this case) is based on the information provided by the European Union Reference Laboratories.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/396/oj>

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/832/oj>