

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.1.2026)

Acetamiprid remains approved as an active substance in the EU and plant protection products containing acetamiprid can be authorised provided their uses are confirmed to be safe for consumers. The responsibility for authorising uses of plant protection products lies with the Member States.

The decision to lower the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for acetamiprid in several food products¹ was based on a comprehensive evaluation carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which reviewed the toxicological properties of acetamiprid and proposed to lower its toxicological reference values. Consequently, EFSA identified risks to consumer health associated with the existing MRLs for several food products, including bananas. As no safe use of acetamiprid on bananas was reported as a basis to set an alternative safe MRL, the MRL for bananas was lowered to the Limit of Quantification (LOQ), also known as the technical zero. The MRL for bananas applies equally to EU products and imports from non-EU countries, so that imported bananas are not allowed to exceed the acetamiprid LOQ.

Applications for revisions of the MRLs for acetamiprid under Article 6 of the MRL Regulation (EC) No 396/2005² can be submitted at any time for any food product, including bananas. Each application will be assessed and, if deemed safe, a new MRL may be established. This was recently the case for honey, plums, and several seeds, for which the MRLs were raised by Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1212³.

Furthermore, Member States have the possibility to grant emergency authorisations for plant protection products containing acetamiprid in urgent situations involving new pests or invasive species when no other reasonable means are available.

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/158 of 29 January 2025 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for acetamiprid in or on certain products, OJ L, 2025/158, 30.1.2025.

² Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/396/oj>.

³ Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1212 of 24 June 2025 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for acetamiprid in or on certain products. OJ L, 2025/1212, 31.7.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1212/oj>.