

EN

P-000761/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.4.2025)

As specified in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005¹ and indicated in E-002397/2024², maximum residue levels (MRL) are set for commodities listed in Annex I to this Regulation. Annex I lists several commodities that can be food or feed, including soybeans. A MRL of 20 mg/kg has been established for soybeans based on the Codex Alimentarius maximum limit and not on an import tolerance request. Currently, specific feed-only products are not yet listed in Annex I and no MRLs are applicable for products or part of products exclusively used for animal feed production due to their low impact on consumer health.

Controls of pesticide residues and enforcement of MRLs are the responsibility of the Member States. Member States carry out official controls³ on pesticides residues, monitor compliance with existing EU MRLs and assess consumer exposure to pesticide residues. Soybean imported from third countries can be controlled at the border, on the market or at operators' premises. The control frequency depends on the control programme of the Member States.

Member States submit the results of the analysis of samples tested during official controls to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). According to the most recent annual reports of the EFSA on pesticide residues in food, in 2022⁴, glyphosate was analysed in 31 samples of soybeans. The majority (23 samples) did not contain residues of glyphosate at all. In 2021, 93 samples were analysed and 63 did not contain residues of glyphosate and in 2020, 11 samples were analysed and none of them contained residues of glyphosate. No samples contained residues at levels that were non-compliant with the applicable MRLs in these three years.

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

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002397-ASW_EN.html

³ In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>) and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/396/oj>).

⁴ The 2022 European Union report on pesticide residues in food <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2024.8753>