DHWV
Deutscher Hopfenwirtschaftsverband

Mitteilungen des Verbandes – RS 01 vom 18.01.2024

Inhalt:
Mitteilung Europäische Kommission wg. Inkrafttreten VO Bifenazat im Hopfen

Liebe Mitglieder,

wir verweisen zunächst auf unser RS 21 vom 12.07.2023 und teilen Ihnen mit, dass wir dazu nun ein Schreiben der Europäischen Kommission erhalten haben. Die Kommission beabsichtigt demnach, die Verordnung noch im Januar 2024 zu verabschieden. Das bedeutet, dass die Verordnung im **Juli 2024** in Kraft treten wird.

Wie im o. g. RS beschrieben, wird der neue Rückstandshöchstgehalt dann für alle Hopfenprodukte innerhalb der EU gelten. Dies unabhängig davon, ob das Hopfenprodukt ggf. vor Inkrafttreten der VO rechtmäßig hergestellt wurde und/oder in die EU importiert wurde.

In der Anlage übersenden wir Ihnen das Schreiben der EU-Kommission zu Ihrer Kenntnis und bitten Sie, die entsprechenden Personen und Stellen in Ihren Häusern zu informieren.

Gerne stehen wir Ihnen bei Rückfragen wie gewohnt zur Verfügung.

Freundliche Grüße

Korbinian Meier
Geschäftsführer
Deutscher Hopfenwirtschaftsverband e. V.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety, Sustainability, and Innovation
The Director

Brussels
SANTE/E4/SS/ai(2024)404836

Dear Mr Meier,

Subject: Adoption of a Draft Regulation as regards maximum residue levels (MRL) for bifenazate in or on certain products and a MRL for hops

I would like to follow-up the meeting we had on 26 September 2023 on bifenazate and the MRL for hops.

First, I would like to recall that Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/698 [(1)] renewed the approval of the active substance bifenazate with restrictions to non-edible crops as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) could not finalise the consumer risk assessment and, consequently, there is no assurance that residues of bifenazate in food (including hops) are safe for consumers [(2)].

On 11 May 2023, at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Residues a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for bifenazate in or on certain products (PLAN/2022/2307) received a favourable opinion of the Committee. The Committee agreed that, as sufficient evidence that the existing Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) can be considered to be safe for consumers had not been provided, the MRLs should be set at the Limit of quantification and that no exemption should apply for products placed on the market before the application date of the new MRLs. A deferred application date of six months as part of the usual procedure has however been granted.

After careful examination of the concerns raised by you and your colleagues in the US and Europe, and after evaluation of all options, I would like to inform you that the

(1) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/698 of 3 May 2022 renewing the approval of the active substance bifenazate in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011. (OJ L 130, 4.5.2022, p. 3)

(2) EFSA Updated peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance bifenazate EFSA Journal 2021;19(8):6818.

Mr Korbinian Meier
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Commission now intends to adopt the Regulation towards the end of January 2024. This means that the Regulation will become applicable only in July 2024, which is already several months later than would be standard procedure and more than one year from the day the draft Regulation was voted at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Residues (May 2023). This strikes a balance between maintaining a high level of consumer protection and at the same time giving you and your colleagues time to do the necessary adjustments in order to comply with the new Regulation.

Please be also informed that the applicant for bifenazate has submitted an application under Article 7 of Regulation No (EC) 1107/2009 ([3]) to change the conditions of approval in order to allow again uses on edible crops. This application is now being assessed by Greece (the evaluating Member State) whose assessment will subsequently be peer-reviewed by EFSA and the other Member States. A positive outcome of the assessment would allow for use on edible crops in the EU again and re-instatement of existing Codex maximum residue limits could then be considered, which, in turn, would enable you and your colleagues to make use again of older stocks containing residues of bifenazate.

I remain available for further discussion on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus Berend

([3]) Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC. (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1)