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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Food Safety, Sustainability, and Innovation
Pesticides and Biocides

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Guidance document on the impact of water treatment processes on residues of active substances or their metabolites in water abstracted for the production of drinking water

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT – DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEW OF THE COMMISSION SERVICES

This guidance does not intend to produce legally binding effects and by its nature does not prejudice any measure taken by a Member State within the implementation prerogatives under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, nor any case law developed with regard to this provision. Only the Court of Justice is competent to interpret Union Law.

Introduction

Following a request from the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) developed the following guidance document, which was subject to a public consultation before being adopted and published:

ECHA and EFSA (European Chemicals Agency and European Food Safety Authority), Hofman-Caris, R., Dingemans, M., Reus, A., Shaikh, S. M., Munoz Sierra, J., Karges, U., ausder Beek, T., Nogueiro, E., Lythgo, C., Parra Morte, J. M., Bastaki, M., Serafimova, R., Friel, A., Court Marques, D., Uphoff, A., Bielska, L., Putzu, C.,...Papadaki, P. (2023). Guidance document on the impact of water treatment processes on residues of active substances or their metabolites in water abstracted for the production of drinking water. EFSA Journal, 21(8), 1–108. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.8194>

Implementation schedule

In order to ensure that applicants have sufficient time to carry out the necessary (experimental) work as required by the guidance and in view of avoiding overlapping regulatory procedures which would create unnecessary duplication of work and lead to delays, the following implementation schedule has been agreed by Member States in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

It is also noted that confirmatory information is required for certain active substances, conditional on the date of implementation of the guidance.

- The guidance document should apply to applications submitted in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Article 5 of Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1740 on or after **1 April 2026**.
N.B. Applicants may use the guidance for applications submitted before that date to demonstrate that water treatment processes will not lead to any harmful effects to human through drinking water (as required by Article 4(3)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009).
- The guidance document should apply to applications for (renewal of) authorisation of plant protection products containing active substances which have been assessed in accordance with this guidance document, and where a decision on (renewal of) approval has been finalised. Therefore, it shall not be applied to applications for (renewal of) authorisation of plant protection products where the concerned active substance(s) have not been evaluated according to this guidance.