

Organic Food

Legal evaluation of pesticide residues

There are stringent regulations in place specifying which pesticides can be used for organic agriculture and organic beekeeping. Any substances not included within these regulations are strictly prohibited.

How can you ensure that your products meet the current national and international requirements?





Intertek offers high quality residue analysis, combined with individual risk-oriented monitoring plans which are developed for your specific needs. Our experts evaluate your results according to the latest national and international regulations.

We provide a fast, reliable and accurate service to allow you to safeguard your products in an ever-changing market.

Our Service

Intertek has a global network of facilities and specialists across the world. For your product to be labelled organic, the use of pesticides must be monitored.

Our highly experienced staff can test for possible contaminants and offer expert advice on the broad and diverse range of regulations that your products must follow.

Since 1st January 2009, the evaluation, production, labelling and control of organic products have come under strict European Community regulations, including:

- Regulation (EC) 834/2007 - organic production and labelling of organic products

- Regulation (EC) 889/2008 - the rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) 834/2007 regarding organic production, labelling and control

- Regulation (EC) 1235/2008 - the rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) 834/2007 with regards to the arrangements for importing organic products from outside the European Union (EU)

The regulations govern what can and cannot be used for plant protection in organic foodstuffs, including pesticides. They also detail the requirements for organic beekeeping, and cover both honey and wax production.

Benefiting You

Intertek can provide both the residue analysis and the high-level expertise that you need to ensure that your products comply with the various rules that govern organic produce, and can also advise on relevant guidelines provided by trader associations.

We can advise on maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides according to Regulation (EC) 396/2005, as well as the relevant use of veterinary drugs (Regulations EC 470/2009 and EU 37/2010).

These regulations do not lay down special MRLs for organic food, though only a few substances are allowed in organic farming compared to conventional agriculture. These are listed in Regulation (EC) 889/2008 which also states that pests, diseases and weeds should be treated using a combination of appropriate alternative methods before applying the measures listed within the Regulation.

The legally nonbinding guidance value of 0.01 mg/kg was set by the German Organic Processors and

Traders Association (BNN) for pesticides. This limit corresponds to the default MRL for substances without MRL.

Bee products, such as honey and wax, are also subject to strict regulation. Intertek employs skilled specialists with decades of experience on this highly specific and vital service. Materials used for organic beekeeping are strictly outlined by Regulation (EC) 889/2008. Allowed substances are limited to:

- Organic acids: formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, oxalic acid
- Essential oils: menthol, thymol, eucalyptol, camphor
- Microorganisms

If the hive requires veterinary assistance, special measures, including quarantine and replacing beeswax, must be taken to ensure no residue remains.

With You All The Way

Advice on the use of pesticides in organic produce is just one of a suite of services we provide in order to ensure the quality and safety of your products.

Intertek food laboratories can offer a full range of food testing services, including analysis and advice. Our experts are available for consultations and

services on food authenticity, GMO, microbiology, allergen testing, nutrition labelling and shelf life.

Intertek is a global firm that has been established for over 130 years. We have locations based around the world and specialists who provide local expertise specific for your needs.

At Intertek, it is our sole mission to provide not only the one-stop-shop you seek for all food services but to establish a trusted partnership with your business - consistently adding value and increasing your competitive advantage in the industry with every step we take together.

Visit www.intertek.com/food

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