

Two-page Summary

2009

1. Luxembourg

1.1. Summary of Results

In 2009, in Luxembourg a total of 161 samples (133 samples under the coordinated community control programme 1213/2008/CE and 28 samples under the national programme) were tested for pesticide residues. 30% of these samples were of domestic origin, 35% from other EU member states, 12% from third countries and 22% had unknown origin (mainly for juice and baby food). The samples included 99 samples of fruits and vegetables (with 293 pesticides analysed), 17 samples of cereals flour (with 270 pesticides analysed), 15 of eggs (with 59 pesticides analysed), 15 samples of baby food (with 294 pesticides analysed) and 15 of orange juice (with 293 pesticides analysed).

No detectable pesticide residue was found in 63 non organic surveillance samples (48.5%). In 64 (49%) non organic surveillance samples residues of pesticides were quantified but in compliance with MRLs. The maximum residue level (MRLs) were exceeded in 4 non organic surveillance samples (3%), of which 3 were from Luxembourg and 1 from France, but this one was in compliance when measurement uncertainty was taken into consideration (50%). Baby food and egg samples had no detectable residues. The number of samples taken from organic products was 31 and a residue was detected in 1 sample (pymetrozine (0.01mg/Kg) in cauliflower).

Details of summary

Sampling strategy	Samples	Analysed	Without residues	With residues at or below MRL	Result >MRL ⁽¹⁾
			Non organic		
Coordinated community control Programme 1213/2009/CE	Fruits and vegetables	71	30.4%	69.4%	4.2% (3éch)
	Processed products (juice/flour)	32	39.3%	60.7%	0%
	Baby food	15	100%	0%	0%
	Eggs	15	100%	0%	0%
National programme	Fruits and vegetables	28	60.7%	39.3%	3.6% (1éch)
Total		161	48.5%	51.5%	2.5% (4éch)

⁽¹⁾In the context of this report the term MRL exceedance refers to the numerical exceedance of the legal limit without considering the measurement uncertainty of 50% according to SANCO/3131/2007

1.2. Organisation of monitoring programmes and sampling

1.2.1. Responsibilities

In Luxembourg, the Food Safety Service of the Direction for Public Health under the Ministry of Health is the competent Authority for the control of the pesticide residues in foodstuff except for

the food of animal origin, for which the Veterinary Service Administration is competent. http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/organisme/pensp/sc/cs9_prod_phyto/cs9_prod_phyto_decembre2009.PDF

1.2.2. Design of Programmes (priorities, targeting, criteria for the percentage of samples to be taken from the organic sector)

The pesticides monitoring in Luxembourg includes two different programmes:

- The Coordinated community control programme based on the Commission Regulation (EC) N° 1213/2008 of 5 December 2008 concerning a coordinated multiannual community control programme and
- The national programme based on a risk assessment where several factors were taken into account: toxicity of pesticides, MRL exceedings observed in previous years in Luxembourg, RASFF notifications, food consumption data. http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/professionnel/denrees_alimentaires/mycotoxines/memoire_N_Denis.pdf

1.2.3. Sampling: personnel, procedures, sampling points

Samples are taken by trained official inspectors according to Directive 2002/63/EG, mainly at wholesalers and retailers level.

1.2.4. Enforcement action

For all samples, a report with analytical results and evaluation of the compliance is systematically sent to the holder of the product for information or action. In addition, for surveillance samples exceeding the MRL, the competent authorities apply adequate measures (e.g. follow-up examination, warnings, withdrawal from market). Furthermore, the competent authorities follow up at the responsible companies. If the risk assessment indicates an acute toxicological risk to the consumer a rapid alert is issued to RASFF (following the draft document SANCO/3346/2001 rev7).

1.3. Quality assurance

1.3.1. Status of accreditation of laboratories, number of laboratories

All laboratories involved in the coordinated community control programme 1213/2008/CE are accredited according to ISO17025. The national laboratory involved in the national programme is accredited but not for the pesticides analyses.

1.3.2. Analytical methods used

Samples of fruits and vegetables were analysed using multi-residue methods. The main detection methods were liquid chromatography LCMS/MS and gas chromatography GC/MS. Single residue methods were used for pesticides, which are not detectable by multi-residue methods like dithiocarbamates.

1.3.3. Participation in proficiency tests

The laboratory for the coordinated community control programme 1213/2009/CE took part to proficiency test organized by the EU (EUPT FV11, EUPT AO04) or other organizations like FAPS, TESTQUAL.

1.3.4. Implementation of EU quality control procedures

The EC guideline SANCO/2007/3131 “Method validation and quality control procedures for pesticides residue analysis in food and feed” have been fully or partly implemented by the different laboratories.

1.3.5. Analytical uncertainty

The competent authorities take into account the analytical uncertainty before enforcement of administrative actions. If measured residues indicate that maximum residue levels are exceeded, the analytical uncertainty is considered.

An over-all analytical uncertainty of 50% of the measured value is generally applied according to SANCO/3131/2007.

By this, competent authorities make sure that legal maximum residue levels are exceeded taking into account measurement uncertainty.

1.4. Other information

http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/organisme/pcnp/sc/cs9_prod_phyto/index.html