



**Pesticide
Action
Network**
Europe

Supermarkets

Fact Sheet

In recent years many major European supermarkets have taken steps to reduce the levels of pesticides present in the food items they sell. These commitments provide a concrete demonstration that major retailers recognise pesticides as a being problem and take the risks of pesticide contamination seriously. Supermarket action also proves that pesticide reduction is possible and profitable within the context of a modern free market economy.

The notes below provide details of specific commitments undertaken by a selection of European supermarkets.

Super de Boer (NL)

Super de Boer only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 50% of the concentration allowed under Dutch law while also ensuring that no pesticide exceeds the Acute Reference Dose (ARfD). Super de Boer operates its own pesticide black list which includes 12 substances currently approved for use in the EU.

LIDL (DE, NL)

In Netherlands and Germany, LIDL only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 33% of the concentration allowed by law. Additionally LIDL aims to ensure that no pesticide is present in excess of the ARfD.

ALDI (DE, NL)

In Netherlands and Germany, ALDI only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 80% of the concentration allowed by law. ALDI also aims to ensure that no pesticide is present in excess of 80% of the ARfD, and that food products contain no more than 3, 4 or 5 different pesticide residues depending on their produce group.

Norma (DE)

Norma only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 80% of the level allowed by law, or at 80% of the ARfD. Norma aims to ensure that food products contain no more than 5 different pesticide residues depending on their produce group.

Edeka (DE)

Edeka only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 70% of the concentration allowed by law.

Plus (DE)

Plus only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 70% of the level allowed by law, or at 70% of the ARfD. Plus aims to ensure that food products contain no more than 3, 4 or 5 different pesticide residues depending on their produce group.

Rewe (DE)

In Germany, Rewe only tolerates pesticide residues present at below 70% of the concentration allowed by law. Additionally the supermarket aims to ensure that no pesticide is present in excess of the ARfD.

Rewe (AT)

Rewe monitors pesticide residues in its food supply chain in cooperation with Austrian environmental NGO 'Global 2000'. The supermarket enforces its own internal residue limits based on Allowed Daily Intake and Acute Reference Dose measurements.

Marks & Spencer (UK)

Marks and Spencer's has agreed with their suppliers to stop using 60 pesticide substances worldwide. This list includes 29 pesticides not banned in the UK or the EU of which 23 are not severely restricted or scheduled for withdrawal. A further 19 pesticides can be used 'with permission only'. Marks and Spencer's long term aspiration is to sell residues free produce. Their future targets for the percentage of food samples showing no residues include: vegetables 90%, salad 80%, potatoes 80%, and fruit 60%. Marks and Spencer publishes its internal residues testing results on their website each month.

Sainsbury's (UK)

Sainsbury's is committed to being pesticide residue free on all of our fruit, vegetables and salads. It aims to be insecticide and herbicide residue free on primary fruit and vegetables by 2008, and to be fungicide residue free on primary fruit and vegetables with the exception of strawberries and citrus. Sainsbury's has a draft list of prohibited and restricted pesticides which it aims to make public in the near future.

The Co-operative (UK)

The Co-op has a list of prohibited pesticides which are excluded from use by all of the Co-op's suppliers worldwide. The prohibited list includes 23 pesticides of which seven are authorised for use in the UK. The Co-op also has a 'restricted' list of pesticides which can be used 'with permission only'. The restricted list includes 32 pesticides including 23 currently authorised for use in the UK. The Cooperative operates a pioneering scheme aimed at supporting farmers in avoiding the use of hazardous pesticides.

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