

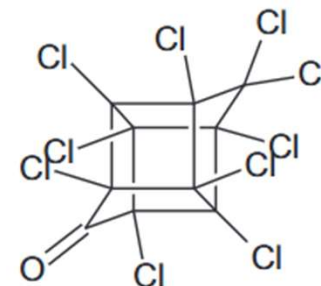
# Update on chlordecone contamination

MARE Market advisory Council meeting

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# Background info

- Chlordecone (CAS No: 143-50-0) is an organochlorine compound with insecticidal activity
- Never approved in the EU, authorized in French Antilles Banned in 2004 for being used in PPP (Commission Regulation (EC) No 850/2004). No emergency Authorisations. No Codex values and no information of authorized uses in third countries
- High persistence. Contamination of food produced in contaminated areas (animal products)
- Listed in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention (decision SC-4/12): **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**
- Fat soluble



# France's Emergency Measures

- In July 2019 France notified two national emergency measures under Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (GFL).
  - Protect consumers in Guadeloupe and Martinique from chlordecone exposure.
  - **ANSES** (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) derived TRVs for chlordecone and recommended lower MRLs for animal products
- Affected Matrices:** Bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, and poultry.



# EU MRLs

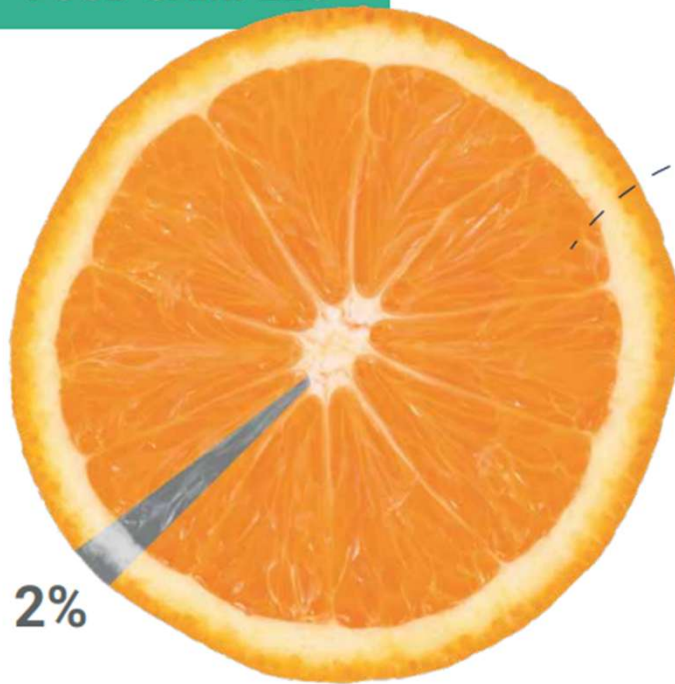
- COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/663 of 22 April 2021 amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for chlordecone in or on certain products
- Based on EFSA statement (EFSA Journal 2020;18(3):6052)
- Lowered MRLs for animal products at (0,02 mg/kg) aligned with French national emergency measure.
- The MRLs set as temporary in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. Those MRLs will be reviewed; the review will take into account the information available within 10 years from the publication of this Regulation



# EU report on pesticide residues in food

**133 000**  
FOOD SAMPLES

were collected in the EU, Iceland and Norway in 2023 (the latest reporting year) **covering food from all continents.**



**98%**

of these samples were **compliant** with EU limits, including 58% with no quantifiable residues.

The percentage of compliant samples has been very high and **stable over the past 10 years**, with an average of 97.8%



<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/pesticide-residues-food>



# The 2023 EU report on pesticide residues in food

- Regarding the pesticide residues with highest quantification rate in animal commodities, copper (RD) (49%) and chlordecone RD (18.9%) were the highest (above 10%). Copper was mostly quantified in swine and bovine kidney as well as in swine and poultry muscle. Chlordecone was mostly quantified in bovine and swine fat; all samples were coming from French overseas territories.

Frequency of MRL exceedances per pesticide

Pesticide	Total results	Above legal limit
Chlordane (RD)	47,026	0 (0%)
Chlordecone (RD)	12,686	53 (0.42%)
Chlordimeform	4,589	0 (0%)
Chlorethoxfos (RD)	1,921	0 (0%)

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# 2023 National summary reports on pesticide residues. French data

## Monitoring of pesticide residues in animal-origin products, except the specific control programme for chlordecone

Out of 134 samples taken and analysed, all were MRL compliant. Only one residue (hexachlorocyclohexane beta) has been quantified, and was above LMR, in a sample of bovine liver.

## Monitoring of chlordecone in products of animal and plant origins

As part of DGAL's control and surveillance programme for food of animal origin, 3674 samples were taken and analysed, and 69 samples were non-compliant with the MRL, representing 1.9% of all the samples (Table 50).

**Table 50: Programme 2023 on food of animal origin – main results**

Animal species or type of product	Guadeloupe		Martinique	
	Number of samples taken	Number of non-MRL compliant samples	Number of samples taken	Number of non-MRL compliant samples
<b>Bovine</b>	642	6	956	13
<b>Fish product</b>	378	14	514	32
<b>Ovine-caprine</b>	20	0	90	2
<b>Swine</b>	601	0	40	0
<b>Poultry</b>	31	0	135	0
<b>Egg</b>	60	0	135	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1742</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>49</b>

As part of DGAL's control and surveillance programme for primary plant products and soil, 659 samples were taken and analysed, and 11 samples were non-compliant with MRL, representing 1.7% of all the samples.

**Table 51: Programme 2023 on non-animal origin – main results**

Animal species or type of product	Guadeloupe		Martinique	
	Number of samples taken	Number of non-MRL compliant samples	Number of samples taken	Number of non-MRL compliant samples
<b>Fruits and vegetables</b>	336	8	323	3



# Data on fish

- The EU does not set specific MRLs for fish or fish products
- National MRLs for fish products are possible. France applies an MRL 0.01 mg/kg for chlordecone for seafood (stricter than the general 0.02 mg/kg for other products).

SAMP Year		N_samples_Analysed	Tot_belowLOQ	Tot_Detected	Percent_Detected
2017	Chlordecone	281	149	132	0,46975089
2018	Chlordecone	716	458	258	0,360335196
2019	Chlordecone	915	648	267	0,291803279
2020	Chlordecone	588	434	154	0,261904762
2021	Chlordecone	125	67	58	0,464



# RASFF notifications for chlordecone in Fish/Fish Products (2014–2024)

## Total RASFF Notifications for Chlordecone (2014–2024)

### Breakdown by Year and Category

(Based on RASFF database searches, French agency reports, and supplementary EU documents.)

Year	Total Notifications	Fish/Seafood Cases	Plant-Based Cases	Other (Water/Soil)	Key Trends
2024	4 (as of June)	0	3 (cassava, sweet potato)	1 (soil)	Focus on root crops; no fish alerts yet.
2023	12	4 (eel, carp, tilapia, shellfish)	6 (bananas, yam, etc.)	2 (water)	<b>Peak in fish contamination alerts.</b>
2022	9	3 (carp, smoked fish, marine fish)	5	1	Increased testing post-2021 bans.
2021	15	5 (eel, tilapia, etc.)	8	2	<b>Highest yearly total</b> (linked to expanded monitoring).
2020	8	3 (river fish, crabs)	4	1	COVID-19 slowed testing but fish risks persisted.
2019	6	2 (catfish, eel)	3	1	First major fish alerts in RASFF.
2018	4	1 (eel)	2	1	Early focus on freshwater species.
2017	3	0	2	1	Mostly plant-based (e.g., yam).
2016	2	0	2 (pineapple)	0	Limited fish testing.
2015	1	0	1 (banana)	0	First RASFF entry for chlordecone.
2014	0	0	0	0	No notifications (pre-RASFF focus).
<b>Total (2014–2024)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>18 (28% of total)</b>	<b>36 (56%)</b>	<b>10 (16%)</b>	<b>Fish/seafood cases rose sharply after 2018.</b>

### Comparison with Previous Decade (2004–2013)

Period	Total Notifications	Fish/Seafood Cases	Plant-Based Cases	Key Context
2004–2013 ~12	0	0	10 (bananas, root crops)	- Chlordecone was <b>not yet a RASFF priority</b> . - Contamination known but <b>not systematically reported</b> to RASFF. - Focus on <b>agricultural products</b> (e.g., bananas from Martinique).
2014–2024 64	18	18	36	- <b>6x increase in total notifications</b> . - <b>Fish/seafood cases emerged after 2018</b> due to expanded testing.

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