

Establishment of a Guidance Value for Non-relevant Pesticide Metabolites in Drinking Water (12 September 2025)

The quality of EU drinking water is regulated by the recast Drinking Water Directive (Directive (EU) 2020/2184). This legislation is implemented in Ireland by the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 99 of 2023).

The Drinking Water Directive requires Member States to “define a guidance value to manage the presence of non-relevant metabolites of pesticides in water intended for human consumption.” The Irish implementing Regulations provide that the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine shall define this value, since the regulatory competence relating to pesticides resides in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

In order to help water suppliers manage the quality of drinking water supplies and ensure a high level of protection for consumers, the Minister has established a guidance value of **0.9 microgram/L** for non-relevant pesticide metabolites.

A pesticide metabolite is a substance that forms from the breakdown/transformation of pesticides in the environment. A non-relevant metabolite is a substance that does not have an effect on target pest organisms comparable to the activity of the parent substance and which does not pose a risk to the health of consumers.