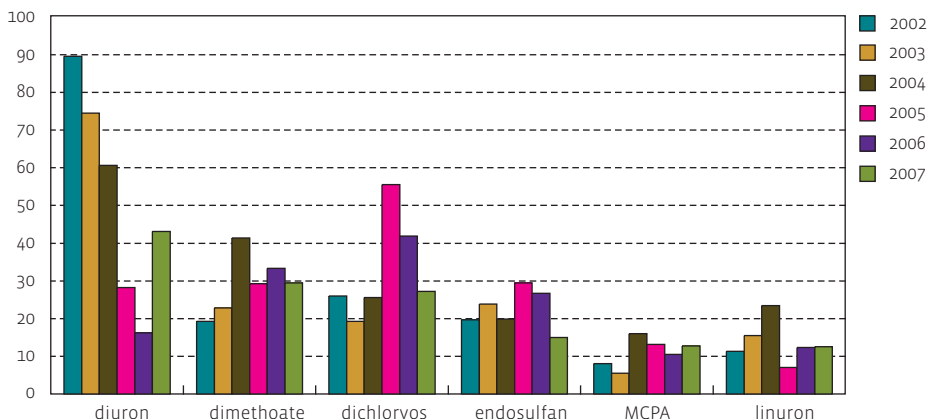




measurement points with standard exceedance (%)



The figure shows only the pesticides for which in 2007 the draft standard was exceeded in more than 10% of the measurement points.

Source: VMM

Toxicity of pesticides in surface water

Because there are still no legal standards available for a number of pesticides, they are also evaluated against draft standards drawn up according to a European method. The draft standards are two-part: an average concentration to avoid chronic effects and a maximum concentration to avoid acute toxicity.

In 2007, the non-selective herbicide diuron was responsible for the highest percentage of measurement points exceeding the draft standard. After the strongly decreasing trend in the period 2002-2006, the % measurement points with an exceedance in 2007 was slightly higher. The measurement points are spread practically over the whole of Flanders. The use of diuron was still allowed up to 13 December 2008. Endosulfan is an insecticide that among other things is approved for fruit, ornamental plant, potatoes and vegetable cultivation. Its use outdoors has no longer been permitted since June 2005. Since 2005 the % measurement points with an exceedance has halved. 15% of the measurement points still exceed the draft standard, especially in the Demer basin (fruit region). Dichlorvos, an insecticide whose use is still allowed until the end of 2008, also shows a decreasing change since 2005, exceedances occur in nearly all basins. Dimethoate (insecticide, especially Demer and Leie basins), MCPA (herbicide, several basins) and linuron (herbicide, especially Demer and Nete basins) show no clear trend.

At 6 measurement points (of 102) the basic quality standard for chlorine pesticides has not been met. This is attributable to exceedances for lindane (1 measurement point), α - and β -endosulphan (5 measurement points), and a too high 'total organochloro-pesticides' content. 3 of the 6 measurement points are located in the Haspengouw fruit region.