

Amendments to the APVMA MRL Standard

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) approves maximum residue limits (MRLs) of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in agricultural produce, particularly produce entering the food chain. The MRLs approved by the APVMA are associated with a regulatory decision to register a product, grant a permit approval, or as an outcome from a review decision and are set out in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Instrument No. 4 (MRL Standard) 2012*. The *MRL Standard* lists MRLs of substances that may arise from the approved use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products containing those substances on commodities used for human consumption as well as livestock feeds. The *MRL Standard* also provides the relevant residue definitions to which these MRLs apply. There may be situations where the residue definition for monitoring and enforcement is different to the definition used for dietary risk assessment purposes.

MRLs are set at levels which are not likely to be exceeded if the agricultural or veterinary chemicals are used in accordance with approved label instructions. In considering MRLs and variation to MRLs, the APVMA takes into account studies on chemistry, metabolism, analytical methodology, residues, toxicology, good agricultural practice and dietary exposure. In approving MRLs, the APVMA is satisfied, from dietary exposure assessment, that the levels set are not an undue hazard to human health.

The APVMA has amended the *MRL Standard* and the changes will have affect the day after the instrument is registered.

Details of the amendment can be found in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Instrument No. 4 (MRL Standard) Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 7)*.

The amendments will be incorporated into the compilation of the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Instrument No. 4 \(MRL Standard\) 2012](#).

The *MRL Standard* is accessible via the ComLaw website www.comlaw.gov.au or the links above.

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Proposal to Amend Standard 1.4.2 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

In the previous notice, the APVMA gazetted that amendments which it has approved varying maximum residue limits (MRLs) for substances contained in agricultural and veterinary chemical products as set out as in the APVMA's *MRL Standard*, have been made.

Under Section 82 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* the APVMA is proposing to incorporate those variations (*Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Instrument No. 4 (MRL Standard) Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 7)*) to MRLs into Standard 1.4.2. Maximum Residue Limits of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

MRLs contained in Standard 1.4.2 provide the limits for residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals that may legitimately occur in foods. By this means, Standard 1.4.2 permits the sale of treated foods and protects public health and safety by minimising residues in foods consistent with the effective control of pests and diseases.

The APVMA and FSANZ are satisfied, based on dietary exposure assessments and current health standards, that the proposed limits are not harmful to public health.

The Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand concerning a Joint Food Standards System, excludes MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food from the system setting joint food standards. Australia and New Zealand independently and separately develop MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) will make a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The APVMA invites comment on these proposals. Details on how to make a submission appear near the end of this notice, below the details of the proposed amendment.

The APVMA will consider any public comments made in response to this proposal. If the APVMA decides to proceed with the proposal, it will further notify any variations it makes to Standard 1.4.2 in the APVMA Gazette. The variations will take effect as from the date of that subsequent notice.

DRAFT VARIATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS CODE

Note: The following amendments are in a format that accords with the proposed amending Legislative Instrument which, in turn, has to be consistent with the existing format of Standard 1.4.2 (Maximum Residue Limits) of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY CHEMICALS CODE INSTRUMENT NO. 4 (MRL STANDARD) AMENDMENT INSTRUMENT 2015 (NO. 7))

Note: Subsection 82(2) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* provides that variations to standards are legislative instruments, but are not subject to disallowance or sunseting.

To commence: on gazettal of variation

Standard 1.4.2 of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* is varied by –

1. omitting from Schedule 1 the foods and associated MRLs for each of the following chemicals –

Methomyl Methomyl	
Beetroot	1
Cassava	T1
Potato	1
Radish	T1
Swede	T1
Sweet potato	T1
Taro	T1
Turnip, garden	T1

Spirotetramat Sum of spirotetramat, and cis-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-hydroxy-8-methoxy-1-azaspiro[4.5]dec-3-en-2-one, expressed as spirotetramat	
Garlic	T0.5
Leafy vegetables [except brassica leafy vegetables; lettuce, head]	5
Onion, bulb	0.5

2. omitting from Schedule 1, under the entries for the following chemicals, the maximum residue limit for the food, substituting –

Fenpyrazamine Fenpyrazamine	
Dried grapes (currants, raisins and sultanas)	10
Table grapes	2

Iprodione Iprodione	
Pistachio nut	T0.2

Methomyl Methomyl	
Chard	2

Spirotetramat	
Sum of spirotetramat, and cis-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-hydroxy-8-methoxy-1-azaspiro[4.5]dec-3-en-2-one, expressed as spirotetramat	
Lettuce, head	7

3. inserting in alphabetical order in Schedule 1, the foods and associated MRLs for each of the following chemicals

Glufosinate and Glufosinate ammonium	
Sum of glufosinate-ammonium, N-acetyl glufosinate and 3-[hydroxy(methyl)-phosphinoyl] propionic acid, expressed as glufosinate (free acid)	
Common bean (pods and immature seeds)	T*0.05

Methomyl	
Methomyl	
Ginger, Japanese	T2
Onion, Chinese	T1
Root and tuber vegetables	1

Methoxyfenozide	
Methoxyfenozide	
Podded pea (young pods) (snow and sugar snap)	T3

Quizalofop-ethyl	
Sum of quizalofop-ethyl and quizalofop acid and other esters, expressed as quizalofop-ethyl	
Quinoa	T*0.02

Spirotetramat	
Sum of spirotetramat, and cis-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-hydroxy-8-methoxy-1-azaspiro[4.5]dec-3-en-2-one, expressed as spirotetramat	
Bulb vegetables	0.5
Herbs	15
Leafy vegetables [except brassica leafy vegetables; lettuce, head; lettuce, leaf]	5
Lettuce, leaf	15
Rhubarb	5

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS

Written submissions are invited from interested individuals and organisations to assist the APVMA in considering the proposal to vary Standard 1.4.2 Maximum Residue Limits of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*. Submissions should be strictly confined to relevant matters that the APVMA must consider (such as public health and safety) which are associated with the occurrence of the proposed residues in foods. Comments received outside these grounds will not be considered by the APVMA. Claims made in submissions should be supported wherever possible by referencing or including relevant studies, research findings, trials, surveys etc. Technical information should be in sufficient detail to allow independent scientific assessment.

Please note that FSANZ will make a SPS notification to the WTO and submissions related to impacts on international trade should be made to FSANZ in response to that notification.

Submissions must be made in writing and should be clearly marked as a 'submission on the proposed amendment to Standard 1.4.2' and quote the correct amendment number.

DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: 6 pm (AEST) 8 September 2015

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT

Submissions received after this date will only be considered if agreement for an extension has been given prior to this closing date. Agreement to an extension of time will only be given if extraordinary circumstances warrant an extension to the submission period.

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