

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 (MRL Standard) Instrument 2019*. 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 (MRL Standard) Amendment Instrument (No. 3) 2019*.

The amendments will be incorporated into the compilation of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (MRL Standard) Instrument 2019*.

The *MRL Standard* is accessible via the [Federal Register of Legislation website](#).

For further information please contact:

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Proposal to amend Schedule 20 in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

In the previous notice on page 34 of APVMA Gazette No. 23, the APVMA gazetted amendments which it has approved to vary maximum residue limits (MRLs) for substances contained in agricultural and veterinary chemical products as set out as in the APVMA's *MRL Standard*.

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 (MRL Standard) Amendment Instrument (No. 3) 2019) to MRLs into Schedule 20—Maximum residue limits in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

MRLs contained in Schedule 20 provide the limits for residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals that may legitimately occur in foods. By this means, Schedule 20 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 Food Standards Australia New Zealand (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 Australian Government and the New Zealand Government 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.

A Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be made.

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 Schedule 20 in the APVMA Gazette. The variations will take effect as from the date of that subsequent notice.

PROPOSED VARIATION TO SCHEDULE 20 IN THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS CODE
(14 November 2019)

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

[1] Section S20–3 in Schedule 20 is varied by

[1.1] inserting for each of the following chemicals the foods and associated MRLs in alphabetical order

Agvet chemical: 2,4-D

Permitted residue: 2,4-D

Walnuts	*0.05
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Agvet chemical: Bifenthrin

Permitted residue: Bifenthrin

Truffle	T*0.01
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Agvet chemical: Glufosinate and Glufosinate ammonium

Permitted residue: Sum of glufosinate-ammonium, N-acetyl glufosinate and 3-[hydroxy(methyl)-phosphinoyl] propionic acid, expressed as glufosinate (free acid)

All other foods except animal food commodities	0.1
Truffle	T*0.2

Agvet chemical: Glyphosate

Permitted residue: Sum of glyphosate, N-acetyl-glyphosate and aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA) metabolite, expressed as glyphosate

Truffle	T*0.05
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Agvet chemical: Mesotrione

Permitted residue: Mesotrione

Barley	*0.01
Edible offal (mammalian)	*0.01
Eggs	*0.01
Meat (mammalian)	*0.01
Milks	*0.01
Poultry, edible offal of	*0.01
Poultry meat	*0.01
Wheat	*0.01

Agvet chemical: Methiocarb

Permitted residue: Sum of methiocarb, its sulfoxide and sulfone, expressed as methiocarb

Truffle	T0.05
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Agvet chemical: Sethoxydim

Permitted residue: Sum of sethoxydim and metabolites containing the 5-(2-ethylthiopropyl)cyclohexene-3-one and 5-(2-ethylthiopropyl)-5-hydroxycyclohexene-3-one moieties and their sulfoxides and sulfones, expressed as sethoxydim

Stone fruits [except cherries]	T*0.03
Wine grapes	T*0.03

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS

Written submissions are invited from interested individuals and organisations to assist the APVMA in considering the proposal to vary Schedule 20—Maximum residue limits in 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 Schedule 20' and quote the correct amendment number.

DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: 6 PM (AEST) 12 DECEMBER 2019

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.

For further information please contact:

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