

14 August 2020
[132-20]

Administrative Assessment Report – Proposal PM1018

Maximum Residue Limits (2020)

<p>Brief Description of Proposal: To consider varying certain maximum residue limits (MRLs) for residues of specified agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals that may occur in food commodities.</p>		<p>Potentially affected Standard: Schedule 20 of the Code</p>
<p>Procedure: General</p>	<p>Estimated total hours: Maximum 1000</p> <p>Reasons why: Involves assessment of the food safety risk of residues of the requested agvet chemicals in the specified food commodities to Australian consumers.</p>	<p>Estimated start work: Early August 2020</p>

Other Comments or Relevant Matters:

The Proposal will consider varying certain MRLs in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) to align with those established by Codex or trading partner standards for the requested agvet chemicals for food import purposes.

This process allows the sale of imported food commodities with legitimate residues of agvet chemicals used in their production. The use is consistent with international regulations for the safe and effective use of the agvet chemicals based on good agricultural practice.

For a number of years, FSANZ has considered Codex MRLs when requested and incorporated many into schedule 20 of the Code. FSANZ is currently considering a new approach whereby new Codex MRLs for pesticide residues, adopted by the preceding year's Codex Alimentarius Commission, would be routinely considered as part of our annual MRL Harmonisation Proposal. This is consistent with our aim to promote consistency between domestic and international food regulatory measures without reducing the safeguards that apply to public health and consumer protection. The proposed new approach, if it were adopted, would reduce the number and the need for stakeholders to specifically request Codex MRLs through the annual proposal process into the future. The inclusion of Codex MRLs or any other MRL requests in the proposal would not be automatic and in particular would be subject to a dietary exposure assessment. Amendments may also need to be made to schedule 22 if and as required.

This Proposal also includes consideration of MRL variations requested by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The APVMA requests are predominantly deletions, however a couple of MRL additions are included. Consideration of antimicrobial resistance implications for variations requested for anti-fungal and anti-microbial chemicals as part of this proposal will be undertaken in consultation with the APVMA.

All agvet chemicals included in the proposal will be assessed for an *All other foods except animal food commodities* MRL where appropriate.

Decision

Proposal prepared

Date: 7 August 2020

Consultation & assessment timeframe

Proposed length of public consultation period:

30 days (Domestic)

60 days (WTO member countries)

Proposed timeframe for assessment:

Commence assessment (clock start)	Early August 2020
Completion of assessment & preparation of draft food reg measure	Early November 2020
Public comment	Early January to Early March 2021
Board to complete approval	Early June 2021
Notification to Forum	Late June 2021
Anticipated gazettal if no review requested	Late September 2021