

Establishment of the Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals in Foods

The Food Sanitation Act authorizes the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits, “MRLs”) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as “agricultural and veterinary chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions in Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the act is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless it complies with the established standards

On May 29, 2006, Japan introduced the Positive List System¹ for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food. All foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation of the system.

The MHLW is going to modify or newly set MRLs in some commodities for the following substances:

Pesticides : Imazapyr, Tolpyralate

Pesticides and Veterinary drug : Oxolinic acid

<The manner of submitting comments>

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) will amend the existing standards and specifications for food as shown in this document. Please provide comments in writing by Friday, July 17, 2020. After the given date, comments should be directed to the enquiry point in accordance with the WTO/SPS Agreement.

If you wish to request Japan to adopt the same limits as your country’s MRLs, you are requested to submit data supporting your country’s MRLs, such as risk assessment and residue data.

<Contact person>

Food Safety Standards and Evaluation Division,
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, 100-8916

Mr. Tomoaki MIURA (miura-tomoaki@mhlw.go.jp)

Tel : 03-3595-2423 (ex 4290) Fax: 03-3595-2432

¹ The aim of the positive list system is to prohibit the distribution of any foods which contain agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) in the Japanese marketplace unless specific maximum residue limits (MRLs) have been set.

Summary

Imazapyr (pesticide: Herbicides): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRL in one commodity in response to a request for setting import tolerances based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan (Shokuan No. 0205001, 5 February 2004). In addition, the MHLW is also going to modify MRLs in some commodities previously set. These action will not strengthen the current regulation for any commodities.

Tolpyralate (pesticide: Herbicides): Permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in one commodity in response to a request for setting MRL by the MAFF with the intention to expand its use pattern.

Oxolinic acid (pesticide: Fungicide and veterinary drug: Synthetic antibacterial): Permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting MRL by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) with the intention to expand its use pattern. In addition, the MHLW is also going to modify MRLs in some commodities previously set.

Imazapyr

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Wheat	0.05	0.05	IT	0.05	1
Barley	○ 0.7			0.7	1
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Soybeans, dry	5	5		5	1
Beans, dry	0.3	0.3		0.3	1
Sunflower seeds	0.08	0.08		0.08	1
Rapeseeds	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Cattle, muscle	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Pig, muscle	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Cattle, fat	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Pig, fat	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	0.05	0.05		0.05	1
Cattle, liver	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Pig, liver	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Cattle, kidney	0.2	0.2		0.2	1
Pig, kidney	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Cattle, edible offal	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Pig, edible offal	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	○ 0.2	0.05		0.2	1
Milk	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Chicken, muscle	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Other poultry, muscle	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Chicken, fat	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Other poultry, fat	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Chicken, liver	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Other poultry, liver	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Chicken, kidney	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Other poultry, kidney	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Chicken, edible offal	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Other poultry, edible offal	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Chicken eggs	0.01	0.01		0.01	1
Other poultry, eggs	0.01	0.01		0.01	1

The residue definition is imazapyr only.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities not listed above.

* In the Commodity column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

○ : Commodities for which MRLs are to be increased.

IT : Import tolerance

Tolpyralate

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)	○ 0.05		Request		1

The residue definition is tolpyralate only.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities not listed above.

○: Commodities for which MRLs are to be increased

Request: Request for setting/revising MRL was made by the MAFF.

Oxolinic Acid

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Rice (brown rice)	0.3	0.3	\$		1
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)	0.01		Request		1
Potato	0.3	0.3	\$		1
Konjac	0.5	0.5	\$		1
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)	• 0.06	0.2	\$		1
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)	○ 15	10	\$ • Request		1
Chinese cabbage	2	2	\$		1
Cabbage	2	2	\$		1
Qing-geng-cai	2	2	\$		1
Cauliflower	• 0.3	2	\$		1
Broccoli	0.2	0.2	\$		1
Other cruciferous vegetables	5	5	\$		1
Endive	• 1	2	\$		1
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	○ 6	5	\$		1
Other composite vegetables	○ 0.2		Request		1
Onion	0.1	0.1	\$		1
Welsh (including leek)	○ 4	3	\$		1
Garlic	0.05	0.05	\$		1
Asparagus	0.7	0.7	\$		1
Other liliaceous vegetables	0.3	0.3	\$		1
Carrot	0.2	0.2	\$		1
Parsley	3	3	\$		1
Celery	1	1	\$		1
Pimiento (sweet pepper)	3	3	\$		1
Pumpkin (including squash)	2	2	\$		1
Japanese pear	0.3	0.3	\$		1
Pear	0.3	0.3	\$		1
Peach		0.3	\$		1
Peach (whole commodity after removal of stems and stones but the residue calculated and expressed on the whole commodity without stems)	5		\$		1
Nectarine	1	1	\$		1
Apricot	○ 30	20	\$		1
Japanese plum (including prune)	0.7	0.7	\$		1
Mume plum	○ 30	20	\$		1
Tea	○ 20		Request		1
Other herbs	2	2			1
Cattle, muscle	0.1	0.1	\$		1
Pig, muscle	0.02	0.02	\$		1
Cattle, fat	0.05	0.05	\$		1
Pig, fat	0.02	0.02	\$		1
Cattle, liver	0.1	0.1	\$		1
Pig, liver	0.02	0.02	\$		1
Cattle, kidney	0.1	0.1	\$		1
Pig, kidney	0.02	0.02	\$		1
Cattle, edible offal	0.1	0.1	\$		1
Pig, edible offal	0.02	0.02	\$		1
Chicken, muscle	0.03	0.03	\$		1
Chicken, fat	0.1	0.1	\$		1
Chicken, liver	0.04	0.04	\$		1
Chicken, kidney	0.04	0.04	\$		1
Chicken, edible offal	○ 0.1	0.06	\$		1
Salmoniformes (such as salmon and trout)	0.1	0.1	\$		1

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Anguilliformes (such as eel)	0.1	0.1	§		
Perciformes (such as bonito, horse mackerel, mackerel, sea bass, sea bream and tuna)	0.06	0.06	§		
Other fish	0.05	0.05	§		
Crustaceans	0.03	0.03			

The residue definition is oxolinic acid only.

* The compound shall not be included in any commodity for which MRL is not given in the above table and in any commodity not listed above.

* Diagonal line means deletion of a food category to which an MRL applies.

* In the Commodity column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

● : Commodities for which MRLs are to be lowered.

○ : Commodities for which MRLs are to be increased.

§ : Permitted for use in Japan.

Request : Request for setting/revising MRL was made by the MAFF.

Notes:

“Other cereal grains” refers to all cereal grains, except rice (brown rice), wheat, barley, rye, corn (maize), and buckwheat.

“Beans, dry” includes butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pegia, sultani, sultapya and white beans.

“Other legumes/pulses” refers to all legumes/pulses, except soybeans (dry), beans (dry), peas, broad beans, peanuts (dry), and spices.

“Other potatoes” refers to all potatoes, except potato, taro, sweet potato, yam, and konjac.

“Other cruciferous vegetables” refers to all cruciferous vegetables, except Japanese radish roots and leaves (including radish), turnip roots and leaves, horseradish, watercress, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, brussels sprouts, kale, *komatsuna* (Japanese mustard spinach), *kyona*, qing-geng-cai, cauliflower, broccoli, and herbs.

“Other composite vegetables” refers to all composite vegetables, except burdock, salsify, artichoke, chicory, endive, *shungiku*, lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce), and herbs.

“Other liliaceous vegetables” refers to all liliaceous vegetables, except onion, welsh (including leek), garlic, *nira*, asparagus, multiplying onion, and herbs.

“Other umbelliferous vegetables” refers to all umbelliferous vegetables, except carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, *mitsuba*, spices, and herbs.

“Other solanaceous vegetables” refers to all solanaceous vegetables, except tomato, pimienta (sweet pepper), and egg plant.

“Other cucurbitaceous vegetables” refers to all cucurbitaceous vegetables, except cucumber (including gherkin), pumpkin (including squash), oriental pickling melon (vegetable), watermelon, melons, and *makuwauri* melon.

“Other mushrooms” refers to all mushrooms, except button mushroom, and *shiitake* mushroom.

“Other vegetables” refers to all vegetables, except potatoes, sugar beet, sugarcane, cruciferous vegetables, composite vegetables, liliaceous vegetables, umbelliferous vegetables, solanaceous vegetables, cucurbitaceous vegetables, spinach, bamboo shoots, okra, ginger, peas (with pods, immature), kidney beans (with pods, immature), green soybeans, mushrooms, spices, and herbs.

“Other citrus fruits” refers to all citrus fruits, except *unshu* orange (pulp), citrus *natsudaidai* (pulp), citrus *natsudaidai* (peel), citrus *natsudaidai* (whole), lemon, orange (including navel orange), grapefruit, lime, and spices.

“Other berries” refers to all berries, except strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, and huckleberry.

“Other fruits” refers to all fruits, except citrus fruits, apple, Japanese pear, pear, quince, loquat, peach, nectarine, apricot, Japanese plum (including prune), mume plum, cherry, berries, grape, Japanese persimmon, banana, kiwifruit, papaya, avocado, pineapple, guava, mango, passion fruit, date and spices.

“Other oil seeds” refers to all oil seeds, except sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, safflower seeds, cotton seeds, rapeseeds and spices.

“Other nuts” refers to all nuts, except ginkgo nut, chestnut, pecan, almond and walnut.

“Other spices” refers to all spices, except horseradish, *wasabi* (Japanese horseradish) rhizomes, garlic, peppers chili, paprika, ginger, lemon peels, orange peels (including navel orange), *yuzu* (Chinese citron) peels and sesame seeds.

“Other spices (limited to roots and rhizome)” includes asafoetida roots, turmeric root, zedoary root, galangal rhizome and licorice root.

“Other herbs” refers to all herbs, except watercress, *nira*, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.

“Edible offal” refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney.

“Other terrestrial mammals” refers to all terrestrial mammals, except cattle and pig.

“Other poultry” refers to all poultry, except chicken.

“Other fish” refers to all fish, except salmoniformes, anguilliformes, and perciformes.

“Other aquatic animals” refers to all aquatic animal, except fish, shelled molluscs and crustaceans.