

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Deletion of MRLs for TCMTB and Fluridone

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On June 14, 2012, the Government of Japan (GOJ) announced the deletion of the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for TCMTB and Fluridone. The domestic comment period for these changes will close on June 28, 2012. After this comment period closes, the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) will then notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another opportunity for further public comment submissions on this subject.

On June 14, 2012, the GOJ held a meeting for foreign missions announcing the deletion of the MRLs for TCMTB and Fluridone. The comment period for these proposed changes ends June 28, 2012. Any comments should be submitted to the MHLW as soon as possible. If you wish to request that Japan adopt the same limits as the current US maximum residue limits, the request should be accompanied by data supporting US MRLs, such as risk assessment and residue data. The information MHLW needs would include toxicity data for target chemicals, residue trial data that support the MRLs, and target food commodities. LOQ and LOD cannot be used as reference data to set up Japanese MRLs. For Japan's MRLs and the details of the information MHLW needs, please visit the following MRLs.

Pesticides; <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/residue/dl/01.pdf>

Feed additives; <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/residue/dl/02.pdf>

Veterinary drugs; <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/residue/dl/03.pdf>

MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted on this subject. The actual WTO/SPS notifications can be found at the site below.

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/work_and_doc_e.htm

After the WTO comment period closes, a final report will be released based on the conclusions reached at a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council slated to be held at a later date. This report will constitute as a final decision.

Comments to GOJ can be made either in Japanese or English and can be send to the point of contact listed below:

Ryouhei SHIMIZU, Mr.
Standards and Evaluation Division,
Department of Food Safety,
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, 100-8916
Tel: 03-5253-1111, ext. 2487
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Post suggests that the U.S. Embassy - Tokyo also be copied on any comments at agtokyo@usda.gov to allow them to be considered as part of the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO.

Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals in Food

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) is intends to withdraw the existing residue standards for 2 compounds.

Summary

Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the Minister of Health,

Labor and Welfare is authorized to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as just “agricultural chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless it complies with the established standards.

On May 29, 2006, the MHLW introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food.* Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system.

Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Law. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese marketplace if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) specified under the Law.

Outline of revision

TCMTB (fungicide) and Fluridone (herbicide): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW has reviewed the MRLs that had been established at the introduction of the positive list system.

TCMTB

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.1
Wheat		0.1
Barley		0.1
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)		0.1
Other cereal grains		0.1
Sugar beet		0.1
Other vegetables		0.1
Safflower seeds		0.1
Cotton seeds		0.06
Other spices		0.1
Other herbs		0.1

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to all commodities.

* 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.

Fluridone

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.1
Wheat		0.1
Barley		0.1
Rye		0.1
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)		0.1
Buckwheat		0.1
Other cereal grains		0.1
Sugar beet		0.1
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.1
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)		0.1
Horseradish		0.1
Watercress		0.1
Chinese cabbage		0.1
Cabbage		0.1
Brussels sprouts		0.1
Kale		0.1
<i>Komatsuna</i> (Japanese mustard spinach)		0.1
<i>Kyona</i>		0.1
Qing-geng-cai		0.1
Cauliflower		0.1
Broccoli		0.1
Other cruciferous vegetables		0.1
Burdock		0.1
Salsify		0.1
Endive		0.1
<i>Shungiku</i>		0.1
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.1
Other composite vegetables		0.1
Carrot		0.1
Parsnip		0.1
Parsley		0.1
Celery		0.1
Other umbelliferous vegetables		0.1
Tomato		0.1
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.1

Egg plant		0.1
Other solanaceous vegetables		0.1
Cucumber (including gherkin)		0.1
Pumpkin (including squash)		0.1
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.1
Water melon		0.1
Melons		0.1
<i>Makuwauri</i> melon		0.1
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables		0.1
Spinach		0.1
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.1
Other vegetables		0.1
<i>Unshu</i> orange, pulp		0.1
Citrus <i>natsudaidai</i> , whole		0.1
Lemon		0.1
Orange (including navel orange)		0.1
Grapefruit		0.1
Lime		0.1
Other citrus fruits		0.1
Apple		0.1
Japanese pear		0.1
Pear		0.1
Quince		0.1
Loquat		0.1
Peach		0.1
Nectarine		0.1
Apricot		0.1
Japanese plum (including prune)		0.1
Cherry		0.1
Raspberry		0.1
Blackberry		0.1
Blueberry		0.1
Huckleberry		0.1
Other berries		0.1
Avocado		0.1
Other fruits		0.1
Cotton seeds		0.1
Chestnut		0.1
Pecan		0.1
Almond		0.1
Walnut		0.1
Other nuts		0.1
Hop		0.1

Other spices		0.1
Other herbs		0.1
Cattle, muscle		0.05
Pig, muscle		0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle		0.05
Cattle, fat		0.05
Pig, fat		0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, fat		0.05
Cattle, liver		0.1
Pig, liver		0.1
Other terrestrial mammals, liver		0.1
Cattle, kidney		0.1
Pig, kidney		0.1
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney		0.1
Cattle, edible offal ("Edible offal" refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney)		0.05
Pig, edible offal		0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal		0.05
Milk		0.05
Chicken, muscle		0.05
Other poultry animals, muscle		0.05
Chicken, fat		0.05
Other poultry animals, fat		0.05
Chicken, liver		0.01
Other poultry animals, liver		0.01
Chicken, kidney		0.01
Other poultry animals, kidney		0.01
Chicken, edible offal		0.05
Other poultry animals, edible offal		0.05
Chicken, eggs		0.05
Other poultry, eggs		0.05
Salmoniformes (such as salmon and trout)		0.5
Anguilliformes (such as eel)		0.5
Perciformes (such as bonito, horse mackerel, mackerel, sea bass, sea bream and tuna)		0.5
Other fish		0.5
Crustaceans		0.5

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to all commodities.

* 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.

Notes:

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

(maize), and buckwheat.

“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, pimiento (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 natsudaïdai (pulp), citrus natsudaïdai (peel), citrus natsudaïdai (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 herbs” refers to all herbs, except watercress, nira, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.

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

“Other poultry animals” 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.