

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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New MRLs for Aldicarb and Three Other Substances

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On December 27, 2011, the Government of Japan (GOJ) announced proposed changes to the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for the following pesticides: Aldicarb, Aldoxycarb, Benfluralin, and Chlorantraniliprole. The comment period for these changes will close on January 17, 2012. After the domestic comment period closes, the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) will notify the WTO/SPS committee of the proposed changes which will then provide another opportunity for public comment on this subject.

General Information:

On December 27, 2011, the GOJ held a meeting for embassies to announce proposed changes to the MRLs for the following pesticides: Aldicarb, Aldoxycarb, Benfluralin, and Chlorantraniliprole. The comment period for these proposed changes ends January 17, 2012. Post advises that any comments be submitted to MHLW as soon as possible, however, there will be another chance for public comment when MHLW notifies the WTO/SPS committee of the proposed changes.

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 based on the conclusions of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council (PAFSC) will be released. The final report of the PAFSC will constitute the final decision.

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

Ms. Hiroko Fukushima
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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Email: hiroko-fukushima@mhlw.go.jp

Post suggests that the U.S. Embassy - Tokyo also be copied on any comments at agtokyo@usda.gov to allow submissions to be considered as part of the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO.

Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals in Food**Summary**

MHLW is developing compositional specifications for food.

Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Act, MHLW is authorized to establish MRLs for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as just “agricultural chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any foods for which MRLs are established are not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless they comply with the required standards.

On May 29, 2006, MHLW introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food and declared that all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace were subject to regulations based on this system.*

Recently, MHLW reviewed current MRLs for food commodities, and drafted new standards targeting four pesticides: Aldicarb, Aldoxycarb, Benfluralin, and Chlorantraniliprole. Details are below.

**Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Act. 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

Aldicarb/Aldoxycarb (insecticide) - Not permitted for use in Japan.

MHLW reviewed MRLs that were established in the 2006 introduction of the positive list system. In current regulations, both Aldicarb and Aldoxycarb have their own MRLs. However, the revised MRLs have unified “Aldicarb and Aldoxycarb” into one category as “aldicarb sulfone”. Aldicarb sulfone is one of aldicarb's metabolites and is basically the same as aldoxycarb. Therefore, aldicarb and aldoxycarb MRLs are now established as the sum of the residues of both aldicarb and its metabolites (aldicarb sulfoxide and aldicarb sulfone) and are calculated as “aldicarb”.

Benfluralin (herbicide) - Not permitted for use in Japan.

MHLW reviewed the 2006 positive list substances and its MRLs based on the chemical toxicity and crop residue data provided from the United States by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Chlorantraniliprole (insecticide) - Permitted for use in Japan.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) decided to expand the application of this compound and, in response, MHLW revised MRLs for target commodities. MHLW also established new MRLs or modified current standards for certain commodities in response to international requests 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).

For watermelon and melon, the proposed MRLs apply to the whole fruit with its skin removed, whereas current MRLs are applied to the whole fruit and its skin. Regarding peaches, the proposed MRLs apply to the whole fruit with its skin and stone removed whereas the current MRLs apply to the whole fruit with only the stone removed.

Aldicarb and Aldoxycarb

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current)	
		Aldicarb ppm	Aldoxycarb ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.02	
Wheat	0.02	0.02	0.02
Barley	0.02	0.02	
Rye		0.02	
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)	0.05	0.05	
Buckwheat		0.02	
Other cereal grains	0.1	0.20	
Soybeans, dry	0.02	0.02	
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pegia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)	0.1	0.10	
Peas		0.05	
Broad beans	0.1	0.1	
Peanuts, dry	0.02	0.05	
Other legumes/pulses	0.1	0.1	
Potato		0.50	
Taro		0.05	
Sweet potato		0.10	
Yam		0.05	
Konjac		0.05	
Other potatoes		0.05	
Sugar beet	0.05	0.05	
Sugarcane	0.1	0.02	
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.05	
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)		0.05	
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)		0.05	
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)		0.05	
Horseradish		0.05	
Watercress		0.05	
Chinese cabbage		0.05	
Cabbage		0.05	
Brussels sprouts	0.1	0.1	
Kale		0.05	
<i>Komatsuna</i> (Japanese mustard spinach)		0.05	
<i>Kyona</i>		0.05	
Qing-geng-cai		0.05	
Cauliflower		0.2	
Broccoli		0.05	
Other cruciferous vegetables		0.05	
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current)	
		Aldicarb ppm	Aldoxycarb ppm
Burdock		0.05	
Salsify		0.05	
Artichoke		0.05	
Chicory		0.05	
Endive		0.05	
<i>Shungiku</i>		0.05	
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.05	

Other composite vegetables		0.05	
Onion		0.05	
Welsh (including leek)		0.05	
Garlic		0.05	
<i>Nira</i>		0.05	
Asparagus		0.05	
Multiplying onion (including shallot)		0.05	
Other liliaceous vegetables		0.05	
Carrot		0.1	
Parsnip		0.1	
Parsley		0.05	
Celery		0.05	
<i>Mitsuba</i>		0.05	
Other umbelliferous vegetables		0.05	
Tomato		0.05	
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.05	
Egg plant		0.05	
Other solanaceous vegetables		0.05	
Cucumber (including gherkin)		0.05	
Pumpkin (including squash)		0.05	
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.05	
Water melon		0.05	
Melons		0.05	
<i>Makuwauri</i> melon		0.05	
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables		0.05	
Spinach		0.05	
Bamboo shoots		0.05	
Okra		0.05	
Ginger		0.05	
Peas, immature (with pods)		0.05	
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.05	
Green soybeans		0.05	
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current)	
		Aldicarb ppm	Aldoxycarb ppm
Button mushroom		0.05	
<i>Shiitake</i> mushroom		0.05	
Other mushrooms		0.05	
Other vegetables		0.1	
<i>Unshu</i> orange, pulp		0.2	
Citrus <i>natsudaidai</i> , whole	0.2	0.2	
Lemon	0.2	0.30	
Orange (including navel orange)		0.30	
Grapefruit	0.2	0.30	
Lime	0.2	0.30	
Other citrus fruits	0.2	0.2	
Apple		0.05	
Japanese pear		0.05	
Pear		0.05	
Quince		0.05	
Loquat		0.05	
Peach		0.05	

Nectarine		0.05	
Apricot		0.05	
Japanese plum (including prune)		0.05	
Mume plum		0.05	
Cherry		0.05	
Strawberry		0.20	
Raspberry		0.05	
Blackberry		0.05	
Blueberry		0.05	
Cranberry		0.05	
Huckleberry		0.05	
Other berries		0.05	
Grape		0.05	
Japanese persimmon		0.05	
Banana		0.50	
Kiwifruit		0.05	
Avocado		0.05	
Pineapple		0.05	
Guava		0.05	
Mango		0.05	
Passion fruit		0.05	
Date		0.05	
Other fruits		0.05	
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current)	
		Aldicarb ppm	Aldoxycarb ppm
Sunflower seeds	0.05	0.05	
Sesame seeds		0.05	
Safflower seeds		0.05	
Cotton seeds	0.1	0.10	
Rapeseeds		0.05	
Other oil seeds		0.05	
Ginkgo nut		0.05	
Chestnut		0.05	
Pecan	1	0.50	
Almond		0.05	
Walnut		0.05	
Other nuts		0.05	
Tea		0.05	
Coffee beans	0.1	0.10	
Hop		0.05	
Other spices		0.2	
Other herbs		0.1	
Cattle, muscle		0.01	0.02
Pig, muscle		0.01	
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle		0.01	
Cattle, fat		0.01	0.02
Pig, fat		0.01	
Other terrestrial mammals, fat		0.01	
Cattle, liver		0.01	0.2
Pig, liver		0.01	
Other terrestrial mammals, liver		0.01	

Cattle, kidney		0.01	0.2
Pig, kidney		0.01	
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney		0.01	
Cattle, edible offal ("Edible offal" refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney)		0.01	0.2
Pig, edible offal		0.01	
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal		0.01	
Milk		0.01	0.02
Chicken, muscle		0.01	0.02
Other poultry animals, muscle		0.01	0.02
Chicken, fat		0.01	0.02
Other poultry animals, fat		0.01	0.02
Chicken, liver		0.01	0.2
Other poultry animals, liver		0.01	0.2
Chicken, kidney		0.01	0.2
Other poultry animals, kidney		0.01	0.2
Chicken, edible offal		0.01	0.2
Other poultry animals, edible offal		0.01	0.2
Chicken, eggs		0.01	0.1
Other poultry, eggs		0.01	0.1
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current)	
		Aldicarb ppm	Aldoxycarb ppm
Peanut oil ¹	0.01	0.01	
Cotton oil ²	0.01	0.01	
Mineral waters (natural mineral waters and bottled/packageg drinking waters)		0.01	

The current MRLs were separately set between Aldicarb and Aldoxycarb, but the revised MRLs are set for the unified category "Aldicarb and Aldoxycarb."

The MRLs for Aldicarb and Aldoxycarb are established for the sum of the residues of Aldicarb and its metabolites (Aldicarb Sulfoxide and Aldicarb Sulfone) calculated as Aldicarb.

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and 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.

1. Refined peanut oil and peanut salad oil that are specified in the Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) and other edible cottonseed oils meeting standards equal to or greater than the JAS.

2. Refined cottonseed oil and cottonseed salad oil that are specified in the JAS and other edible cottonseed oils meeting standards equal to or greater than the JAS.

Benfluralin

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Peanuts		0.05
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	0.05	0.05

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

Chlorantraniliprole

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)	0.05	0.05
Wheat	0.02	
Barley	0.02	
Rye	0.02	
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)	0.6	
Buckwheat	0.02	
Other cereal grains	0.02	
Soybeans, dry	0.2	0.2
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pedia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)	2	
Peas	2	
Broad beans	2	
Peanuts, dry	2	
Other legumes/pulses	2	
Potato	0.02	0.01
Taro	0.02	
Sweet potato	0.02	
Yam	0.02	
Konjac	0.02	
Other potatoes	0.02	
Sugar beet	0.02	
Sugarcane	14	
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)	0.05	
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)	20	
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)	0.2	
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)	20	
Horseradish	0.02	
Watercress	20	13
Chinese cabbage	20	4.0
Cabbage	4	4.0
Brussels sprouts	4	4.0
Kale	20	11
<i>Komatsuna</i> (Japanese mustard spinach)	20	11
<i>Kyona</i>	20	11
Qing-geng-cai	11	11
Cauliflower	4	4.0
Broccoli	4	4.0
Other cruciferous vegetables	20	11
Burdock	0.02	
Salsify	0.02	
Artichoke	4	
Chicory	20	
Endive	20	13
<i>Shungiku</i>	20	13

Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	20	13
Other composite vegetables	20	13
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Welsh (including leek)	2	2
Asparagus	13	
Carrot	0.02	
Parsnip	0.02	
Parsley	13	13
Celery	13	13
Other umbelliferous vegetables	13	13
Tomato	0.7	0.7
Pimiento (sweet pepper)	1	0.7
Egg plant	0.7	0.7
Other solanaceous vegetables	20	0.7
Cucumber (including gherkin)	0.3	0.3
Pumpkin (including squash)	0.3	0.25
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)	0.3	0.25
Water melon ¹	0.1	0.25
Melons ¹	0.1	0.25
<i>Makuwauri</i> melon	0.1	0.25
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables	20	0.25
Spinach	20	13
Okra	0.6	
Green soybeans	1	1
Button mushroom	0.6	
<i>Shiitake</i> mushroom	0.6	
Other mushrooms	0.6	
Other vegetables	20	13
Citrus <i>natsudaidai</i> , whole	1	
Lemon	1	
Orange (including navel orange)	1	
Grapefruit	1	
Lime	1	
Other citrus fruits	1	
Apple	1	1
Japanese pear	1	0.5
Pear	1	0.5
Quince	1	0.3
Loquat	0.3	0.3
Peach ²	0.4	1.0
Nectarine	4	1.0
Apricot	4	1.0
Japanese plum (including prune)	4	1.0
Mume plum	1	
Cherry	1	1
Strawberry	1	0.7
Other berries	3	
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Grape	2	1.2
Japanese persimmon	4	

Banana	4	
Papaya	2	
Avocado	4	
Pineapple	2	
Guava	4	
Mango	4	
Passion fruit	2	
Other fruits	4	
Sesame seeds	0.3	
Cotton seeds	0.3	0.3
Rapeseeds	0.3	
Other oil seeds	0.3	
Chestnut	0.04	
Pecan	0.04	
Almond	0.04	
Walnut	0.04	
Other nuts	0.04	
Tea	50	50
Coffee beans	0.4	
Cacao beans	0.08	
Hop	90	
Other spices	14	
Other herbs	25	
Cattle, muscle	0.05	0.01
Pig, muscle	0.05	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	0.05	0.01
Cattle, fat	0.3	0.01
Pig, fat	0.3	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	0.3	0.01
Cattle, liver	0.3	0.01
Pig, liver	0.3	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	0.3	0.01
Cattle, kidney	0.2	0.01
Pig, kidney	0.2	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	0.2	0.01
Cattle, edible offal ("Edible offal" refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney)	0.2	0.01
Pig, edible offal	0.2	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	0.2	0.01
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Milk	0.05	0.01
Chicken, muscle	0.02	
Other poultry animals, muscle	0.02	
Chicken, fat	0.01	
Other poultry animals, fat	0.01	
Chicken, liver	0.02	
Other poultry animals, liver	0.02	
Chicken, kidney	0.02	
Other poultry animals, kidney	0.02	
Chicken, edible offal	0.02	
Other poultry animals, edible offal	0.02	

Chicken, eggs	0.2	
Other poultry, eggs	0.2	
Fish and shellfish	0.05	0.05
Red pepper (dry)	5	

1. Watermelon and melons: The revised MRLs (draft) are applied to the whole fruit from which its skin is removed while the MRLs are applied to the whole fruit with its skin.

2. Peach: The revised MRL (draft) is applied to the whole fruit from which its skin and stone are removed while the current MRL is applied to the whole fruit from which its stone is only removed.

* 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.

*For listings that contain a draft MRL but no previous standard, this indicates that a new MRL has been set for that respective commodity.

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 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 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 animals, except fish, shelled mollusks, and crustaceans.