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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

PMRL2009-13

Abamectin

(publié aussi en français)

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the addition of a new use on potatoes to the product label of Agri-Mek 1.9% EC Insecticide/Miticide, containing technical grade abamectin, is acceptable. The specific use approved in Canada is detailed on the label of Agri-Mek 1.9 % EC Insecticide/Miticide, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 24551.

The evaluation of this abamectin application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and that the human health and environmental risks associated with the new use are acceptable. Details regarding the registration can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available on the Pesticides and Pest Management portion of Health Canada's Website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.¹

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for abamectin is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRL is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRL for abamectin in Canada in or on food, to be added to those already legally established, is as follows.

¹ The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Programs and Special Actions/Minor Use/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2008-1819.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Abamectin

| Common Name | Residue Definition | MRL (ppm) | Food Commodity |
|-------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| Abamectin | avermectin B ₁ (a mixture of avermectins containing greater than or equal to 80% avermectin B _{1a} (5- <i>O</i> -demethyl avermectin A _{1a}) and less than or equal to 20% avermectin B _{1b} (5- <i>O</i> -demethyl-25-de(1-methylpropyl)-25-(1-methylethyl) avermectin A _{1a}) and its delta-8,9-isomer) ² | 0.01 | Potatoes |

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found under the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage on the Pesticides and Pest Management portion of Health Canada's Website.

International Situation and Trade Implications

MRLs may vary from one country to another for a number of reasons, including differences in pesticide use patterns and the locations of the field crop trials used to generate residue chemistry data. As per Table 2, the proposed MRL in Canada is the same as the Codex³ MRL (Codex MRLs searchable by pesticide or commodity) but differs from the tolerance established in the United States (tolerances listed in 40 CFR Part 180 by pesticide).

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRL, American Tolerance and Codex MRL

| Food Commodity | Canadian MRL (ppm) | American Tolerance (ppm) | Codex MRL (ppm) |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Potatoes | 0.01 | 0.005 | 0.01 |

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for abamectin up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRL for abamectin and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) document on the PMRA website.

² The residue definition for abamectin currently found on the PMRA MRL webpage reflects International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) terminology and is to be revised to reflect Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) nomenclature in accordance with Table 1 above.

³ Codex is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.