



23 February 2026

(26-1281)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Multiple commodities
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerance(s). <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 5 <a href="https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-02-20/html/2026-03368.htm">https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-02-20/html/2026-03368.htm</a>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> This regulation establishes tolerances for residues of imidacloprid (CASRN 138261-41-3) in or on the food and feed commodities of black pepper at 0.05 parts per million (ppm).  Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), the American Spice Trade Association submitted a petition to EPA requesting that EPA establish a maximum permissible level for residues of this pesticide in or on this commodities.
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
<b>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:** In making its tolerance decisions, EPA seeks to harmonize U.S. tolerances with international standards whenever possible, consistent with U.S. food safety standards and agricultural practices. EPA considers the international maximum residue limits (MRL) established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), as required by FFDC section 408(b)(4).

The Codex Alimentarius is a joint United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization food standards program, and it is recognized as an international food safety standards-setting organization in trade agreements to which the United States is a party. EPA may establish a tolerance that is different from a Codex MRL; however, FFDC section 408(b)(4) requires that EPA explain the reasons for departing from the Codex level.

Neither Codex nor Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) have established a MRL for imidacloprid in/on black pepper. Therefore, there are no harmonization issues regarding the establishment of a tolerance without a U.S. registration on black pepper.

**9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:**  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-02-20/html/2026-03368.htm> (available in English)

**10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):** 20 February 2026  
**Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):** 3 July 2025

**11. Proposed date of entry into force:**  Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 20 February 2026  
 Trade facilitating measure

**12. Final date for comments:**  Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 21 April 2026  
**Agency or authority designated to handle comments:**  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:  
 Comments should be submitted to EPA's WTO SPS team at [EPAWTOSPS@epa.gov](mailto:EPAWTOSPS@epa.gov).

**13. Text(s) available from:**  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-02-20/html/2026-03368.htm>