WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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23 October 2026

(26-7435)

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

| | |
|---|---|
| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** AUSTRALIA<br>**If applicable, name of local government involved:** |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) |
| **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):** Foods in general |
| **4.** | **Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:**<br>**[X] All trading partners**<br>**[ ] Specific regions or countries:** |
| **5.** | **Title of the notified document:** Proposal to amend Schedule 20 of the revised Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (20 October 2026). **Language(s):** English. **Number of pages:** 3<br>https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/F2015L00468 |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** Emergency use of Metalaxyl-M & Dimethomorph / Phytophthora Crown Rot / Strawberries permit. The metalaxyl MRL for Strawberry is proposed to increase from 0.6 mg/kg to T2 mg/kg to cover the proposed use. No changes to the dimethomorph MRL are necessary. |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [ ] animal health, [X] plant protection, [ ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ] protect territory from other damage from pests.** |
| **8.** | **Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action:** Nursery outbreaks of the plant disease Phytophthora cactorum occurred earlier this year, and was not sufficiently controlled by available methods, as it involved a new strawberry variety for which phytophthora susceptibility was greater than expected. These plants were shipped to fruit growers before the extent of the outbreak was identified. Fruit growers receiving these plants are at increased risk of plant losses due to this disease, which had already reached 12% loss in July this year, and this is expected to continue to increase.<br>Crop losses from delayed access to control measures are expected to increase significantly. For growers, a 60-day delay in access to effective control measures could mean a loss of the entire seasons production, which places strain on continued grower viability.<br>There are currently no registered options and only one active constituent under permit for control of Phytophthora cactorum in field strawberries once they have left the nursery. The option under permit is applied by foliar spray. As a root and crown disease, control of phytophthora via foliar spray alone is generally not expected to be highly effective under moderate to high disease pressure, due to limited translocation to the target organ. The applicant noted that existing control measures are effective under normal conditions, which is why the current outbreak was unexpected with the new strawberry variety used. |

Commercial strawberries are typically grown as annual or biennial crops. While the industry may be able to implement control measures to safeguard future crops, delays in this season will result in significant losses. In essence, access to the requested use patterns is specific to this season's outbreak.

**9. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:**

**[X] Codex Alimentarius Commission *(e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)*:**
- CAC/MRL 1 Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides 2009
- CAC/MRL 2 Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Food 2009
- CAC/MRL 3 Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) 2001 and subsequent variations to relevant standards as adopted or revoked by the Commission

**[ ] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:**

**[ ] International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM number)*:**

**[ ] None**

**Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?**

**[ ] Yes [X] No**

**If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:** Certain proposed limits may differ from Codex limits.
The scientific methodology used by Australia to establish MRLs is consistent with international best practice and follows a rigorous scientific risk analysis including dietary exposure assessment to chemical residues from potentially treated foods. Countries set MRLs according to the good agricultural practice (GAP) or good veterinary practice (GVP) applicable to their region. Agricultural and veterinary chemical use patterns differ between different production regions and countries as pests, diseases and environmental factors vary. This means that Australian MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food may differ from Codex standards. Australia's residues assessment processes for agricultural chemicals are available at: https://apvma.gov.au/node/1037. Australia's residues assessment processes for veterinary chemicals are available at: https://apvma.gov.au/node/719.

**10. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:** *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/F2015L00468 (available in English)

**11. Date of entry into force (*dd/mm/yy*)/period of application (as applicable):**

Entry into force anticipated November 2026.

**[ ] Trade facilitating measure**

**12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [X] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**

Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: +(61) 2 6272 3933
E-mail: sps.contact@aff.gov.au
Website: http://www.agriculture.gov.au

**13. Text(s) available from: [X] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**

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