

3 November 2015

Original: English

(15-5815)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- 1. Notifying Member: <u>AUSTRALIA</u>
 - 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): Processed foods in general

NOTIFICATION

- 4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:
 - [X] All trading partners
 - [] Specific regions or countries:
- Title of the notified document: M1011 Maximum Residue Limits (2015) Language(s): English Number of pages: 20
- 6. Description of content: This Proposal seeks to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (Schedule 20 of the revised Code which commences on 1 March 2016) to align maximum residue limits (MRLs) for various agricultural and veterinary chemicals so that they are consistent with other national regulations relating to the safe and effective use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals; and to align certain limits with Codex or trading partner standards relating to residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food. The document includes a summary of the scientific risk assessment and risk assessment methodology.
- Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [] animal health, [] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests.
- 8. 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 2011, 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?

- 2 -

[]Yes [X]No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:

Certain proposed limits conform to Codex limits.

The scientific methodology used by Australia to establish MRLs is consistent with international best practice. 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.

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:

Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (available in English)

10. Proposed date of adoption (*dd/mm/yy*): FSANZ Board approval anticipated March 2016

Proposed date of publication *(dd/mm/yy)***:** Notification to Government anticipated March 2016 with gazettal and registration as a legislative instrument to follow in late May 2016, pending Government consideration.

11. Proposed date of entry into force: [] Six months from date of publication, and/or (*dd/mm/yy*): Date of Gazettal and registration as a legislative instrument pending Government consideration (see 10. above).

[X] Trade facilitating measure

The Proposal includes measures to address certain anomalies between the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and Codex or trading partner standards. This should assist in the facilitation of trade for certain food products.

12. Final date for comments: [] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (*dd/mm/yy*): 13 January 2016

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

Food Standards Australia New Zealand PO Box 7186 Canberra BC ACT 2610 Australia E-mail: standards.management@foodstandards.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:

Documents are available from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website:

http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/M1010maximumresiduelimits.a spx

Copies are also available from:

The Australian SPS Notification Point GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au