

IHGC Commission on Regulatory Harmonization
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The Commission on Regulatory Harmonization works closely with the US Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee and the European Union Commodity Expert Group for Hops on the harmonization of issues impacting the international trade of hops, particularly in the area of chemical (pesticide) residue Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs).

Information from around the world is summarized and provided to IHGC delegates, to insure that all hop producing countries are aware of regulatory issues impacting the trade of hops.

MRL Tracking Chart

The US Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee maintains a database comparing hop MRLs in a number of key hop producing and customer countries, as well as the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the World Health Organization. This database was emailed to IHGC delegates prior to this meeting.

Asia Pacific Activities

The US Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee is currently working on a 2.5 year project to harmonize hop MRLs in the following markets:

- **Australia:** Australia approved the following MRLs for hops in the first quarter of 2016 as a result of the hop SCBG effort. We now have 32 hop MRLs in Australia, up from virtually none when the project started.

Compound	Trade Name	US MRL (ppm)	Australia MRL (ppm)
Boscalid	Pristine/Bellis (+pyraclostrobin)	35	60 (to replace existing 35 tolerance)
Dimethenamid-P	Outlook	0.05	0.05
Famoxadone	Tanos	80	80
Flupyradifurone	Sivanto	10	10
Folpet	Folpan	120	120
Fosetyl-Al	Aliette	45	45
Metalaxyl	Ridomil	20	10 (to replace current 0.3 tolerance)
Metrafenone	Vivando	70	70
Norflurazon	Solicam	3	3
Spinetoram	Delegate/Radiant	22	22 (to replace current 1 ppm tolerance)
Spinosad	Spin-Tor	22	22 (to replace current 5 ppm tolerance)

Tebuconazole	Folicure	35	40 (to replace current 0.5 tolerance)
Thiamethoxam	Platinum	0.1	0.1

Australia has announced that it will seek additional MRL requests by April 29, 2016. USHIPPC is working with industry partners to identify and request the remaining hop MRLs needed in the market.

- **Taiwan:** As reported in the last report, in December 2015, Taiwan officially adopted 33 new hop MRLs. These are the first permanent MRLs ever established for hops in Taiwan and are as a result of USHIPPC efforts. The new MRLs are below.

Chemical	US Hop MRL	December 2015 Established Taiwan Hop MRL	Codex MRL
Abamectin	0.2	0.05	0.1
Acequinocyl	4	15	
Azoxystrobin	20 (import)	20	30
Bifenazate	15	15	20
Bifenthrin	10	2	20
Boscalid	35	35	60
Clethodim	0.5	0.1	
Cyfluthrin	20	20	
Cymoxanil	7	2	
Dimethomorph	60	50	80
Dithianon	100 (import)	5	
Etoazole	7	15	15
Fenarimol	5	5	5
Fenpyroximate	10	10	10
Flonicamid	7	2	
Fosetyl-Al	45	30	
Gibberellic Acid	exempt	5	
Hexythiazox		3	
Imidacloprid	6	10	
Mandipropamid	50	50	90
Metalaxyl	20	10	10
Myclobutanil	10	2	2
Propargite	100	30	100
Pymetrozine	6	15	
Pyraclostrobin	23	10	15
Pyridaben	10	5	
Quinoxifen	3	1	1
Spinosad	22	22	
Spirodiclofen	30	30	40
Spirotetramat	10	15	15
Tebuconazole	35	30	40
Tolyfluanid	30 (import)	30	50
Trifloxystrobin	11	30	40

In late March 2016, Taiwan proposed adopting two new hop MRLs on priority compounds. One for carfentrazone-ethyl on 0.1 ppm, which is harmonized with the U.S. MRL. This is a positive development, as a carfentrazone-ethyl MRL for hop had been included in the U.S. Priority MRL list submission to Taiwan. Additionally, Taiwan is proposing to adopt an MRL for flupyradifurone on hop at 6 ppm, which is below the U.S. MRL of 10 ppm, but should be acceptable. Flupyradifurone is the active ingredient in Bayer's new Sivanto insecticide product. Comments are due in the second quarter of 2016.

- **Korea:** USHIPPC's MRL contractor after his trip with the U.S. government to Korea, continued to work closely with pesticide registrants, the U.S. Embassy in Korea, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative's office on the Korean MRL transition.
- Importantly, in February, Korea agreed to delay the implementation of the new MRL list as it applies to hops by one year to December 2018, giving registrants additional time to submit their data packages. Korea is also considering using Codex data packages for generic products, which would address a major potential trade barrier associated with the transition. USHIPPC's efforts with the U.S. government assisted with these positive developments.
- We have also established contact with numerous additional registrants who had not been contacted before, and asked them to prepare submissions to Korea to ensure MRLs are in place for the transition.
- **China:** China established six new hop MRLs in November 2015, which takes to total number of hop MRLs in China to 24. China still does not have a system for seeking import tolerances only, and instead requires full registration applications.
- USHIPPC contractors will travel to China in April 2016 to attend the Codex meeting and learn the latest on China's plans to address their needs for additional MRLs.
- **Hong Kong:** There have been no changes to the current Hong Kong MRL policies since the meeting with Hong Kong officials in September 2015. USHIPPC is monitoring Hong Kong MRLs and plans to meet with Hong Kong officials again in September 2016 to press for an update.

EU MRL Proposals

The EU recently published two MRL proposals, which contain five proposed hop MRL amendments:

Market	Source	Commodity	Active Ingredient	U.S. MRL	Codex MRL	Existing MRL	Proposed MRL
EU	<u>G/SPS/N/EU/160</u>	Hop	Cymoxanil	7	–	{2}	{0.1}
	<u>G/SPS/N/EU/161</u>		Bifenthrin	10	20	10	20
			Methomyl	12*	–	{10}	{0.05}
			Metalaxyl	20	{10}	{10}	{0.01}
			Metalaxyl-M	20	{10}	{10}	{0.01}

*U.S. MRL is Import Tolerance

The EU is proposing to decrease the MRL for **cymoxanil** on hops from 2 ppm to 0.1 ppm, which remains below the U.S. MRL of 7 ppm. The EU is also proposing to increase the MRL for **bifenthrin** on hop from the U.S.-harmonized level of 10 ppm to the Codex-harmonized level of 20 ppm, and decrease the MRL for **methomyl** on hop from 10 ppm to 0.05 ppm, below the U.S. import tolerance MRL of 12 ppm. Additionally, the EU is proposing to decrease the hop MRLs for **metalaxyl/metaxyl-M** from the Codex-harmonized level of 10 ppm to 0.01 ppm, which is below the corresponding U.S. MRLs of 20 ppm.

As the EU is proposing to decrease MRLs for cymoxanil, metalaxyl, and metalaxyl-M to further restrictive levels, and these compounds have hop priorities set in the U.S. Grower MRL Priority Database (including cymoxanil and metalaxyl-M at “Very High”), we believe we should submit comments requesting these MRLs be maintained at their current levels. Please let us know your thoughts. The EU will be accepting comments on these WTO notifications through June 4, 2016.