



EPA Regulatory Update: MRL Harmonization Activities



2017 MRL Harmonization Workshop

San Francisco, California
May 31 & June 1, 2017

Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Outline

- International Involvements
 - International goals of OPP
 - Opportunities to affect international MRLs
- Update on Current Activities
 - APEC and APEC Import Tolerance Guidelines
 - CCPR49
 - Status of EPA's Crop Grouping Activities
 - Other Continuing Work



OPP International Goals

- **Goal #1: Strengthen Protections**
 - Strengthen food safety, public health and environmental protection, domestically and globally
- **Goal # 2: Enhance Regulatory Decisions through Collaboration**
 - Improve science base and enhance regulatory efficiency by leveraging scientific and regulatory resources with the international community



OPP International Goals

- **Goal # 3: Conserve Resources**

- Conserve resources of U.S. consumers, growers, and industry stakeholders through more efficient and coordinated regulatory processes

- **Goal # 4: Minimize Barriers**

- Minimize international trade issues related to pesticide regulatory requirements & facilitate trade and fair competition



Opportunities/Involvements

- **OECD**

Working Group on Pesticides; Registration and Risk Reduction Steering Groups; Expert Groups (e.g. Residue Expert Working Group); Test Guideline Program; Task Force on Biocides; Biopesticides Steering Group

- **NAFTA**

Technical Working Group on Pesticides (TWG); Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC)



Opportunities/Involvements

- **APEC**

APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

- **Codex Alimentarius**

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues; Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues; Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management; Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Other Opportunities**

Global Joint Reviews; Bilateral Partnerships



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

- In 2015 US Co-Chaired Two Expert Workshops
- Primary goal: Develop a guidance document for establishing import MRLs for imported foods where no domestic equivalent MRL exists
 - Expected to facilitate the utilisation of the APEC Import Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Guideline for Pesticides throughout APEC member economies to enhance trade and regulatory convergence.



Pilot to Support Import Tolerances

- Identify projects for establishing tolerances without accompanying US registrations
- Petitioner submits the final review of the residue chemistry data from JMPR or a National Authority
- EPA relies on these reviews to determine the appropriate tolerance level



Pilot to Support Import Tolerances

- OPP has received five petitions under the pilot
 - **Ametoctradin** on hops (EFSA review)
 - **Tebuconazole** on ginseng (JMPR review)
 - **Boscalid** on Edible Podded Legume Vegetable Subgroup 6A (EFSA review)
 - **Imidacloprid** on tea and olive (JMPR review)
 - **Pyrifluquinazon** on tea (JMAFF review)



US Codex Alimentarius Activities

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

- US is represented by a US delegate from US EPA and an alternate US delegate from USDA
- Meeting held each spring in China
- US has played an active role in setting the priorities and focus of the CCPR sessions



Updates from CCPR49

Reached consensus on a number of crop groups and advanced 488 MRLs for final adoption

- These MRLs are associated with 26 pesticides
- 358 and 130 MRLs forwarded for adoption are for plant and animal commodities, respectively
- Crop Group or Subgroup MRLs accounted for 73 of the 488 MRLs forwarded for adoption
- Six of the ten new compounds reviewed by JMPR in 2016 were nominated by the United States



Updates from CCPR49

CCPR recommended revocation for 103 previously adopted MRLs associated with 9 pesticides

- Typically Codex MRLs being replaced based on review of additional data, uses no longer supported, or Codex MRLs deemed by JMPR to have potential dietary intake concerns with no alternative GAP
- 24 draft Codex MRLs for four pesticides were withdrawn from further consideration



Updates from CCPR49

Considered proposed amendments for the Crop Groups and Subgroups for Vegetable and Grass commodities and agreed to forward for approval at for final approval

- Vegetable commodities
- Grasses of Cereal Grains
- Grasses for Sugars or Syrup Production
- Seeds for Beverages and Sweets



Updates from CCPR49

Guidelines on Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Food

- US presented the main changes to the Guidelines
- The Committee agreed to forward the revised document for final adoption



Updates from CCPR49

Proposed modifications to **IESTI (International Estimate of Short-term Intake)** equation

- Co-chaired by EU/Netherlands and Australia
- Purpose: Identify advantages and challenges that might arise from the possible revision of the current IESTI equations and the impact on risk management, risk communication, consumer protection goals, and trade.
- DRAFT Discussion Document on possible revisions to IESTI equation developed



Updates from CCPR49

PMRA introduced a proposal to fund an **extraordinary session of the JMPR** in May 2019 that will draw on the nominations listed in the 2019 priority list on new uses

- CCPR expressed general support for the proposal that will help eliminate some of the backlog



Updates on US Crop Groupings

- **Five New Crop Groups established**
 - Leafy Vegetable Group 4-16
 - Head and Stem Brassica Vegetable Group 5-16
 - Stalk, Stem and Leaf Petiole Group 22
 - Tropical and Subtropical Fruit, Edible Peel Group 23
 - Tropical and Subtropical Fruit, Inedible Peel Group 24
- Became effective on July 5, 2016



Updates on US Crop Groupings

Current Petitions Pending Consideration

- Herbs
- Spices
- Root and Tuber Vegetables
- Leaves of Root and Tuber Vegetables
- Legume Vegetables
- Foliage of Legume Vegetables
- Cereal Grains
- Forage, Fodder and Straw of Cereal Grains



Other Continuing Work

- **Harmonizing Crop Group MRLs (with PMRA)**
- **Global Zoning (with PMRA, CLA, and IR-4)**
- **GlobalMRL.com (with USDA FAS)**



Summary

OPP is continuing to be involved in a variety of science-based exploratory and other initiatives which are anticipated to assist in moving toward more globally-aligned MRLs