

# Pesticide Residue Analysis and Global MRL Compliance

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# agenda

MRL Harmonization and Pesticide Residue Analysis

**Strategies for MRL Compliance** 

**Residue Data and MRL Compliance Trends** 

**Pesticide Metabolites and Residue Definitions Challenges** 





## The Never Ending Story: MRL Harmonization

- New uses of existing chemicals (Ex:Pre-harvest vs post-harvest use)
- New studies leading to reduction and/or removal of existing MRLs
- New chemicals with limited # of MRLs established
- New invasive pest issues
- Abrupt new dietary trends
- Costly and time consuming to establish new MRLs
- Differences in data interpretation and registration policies





## MRL Harmonization: Multiple Fronts

- Differences in residue definitions
   Ex: US Fosetyl-al = Fosetyl-al vs EU Foestyl-al = Fosetyl + Phosphonic Acid
- Differences in corresponding MRL values
   Ex: Sweet Potato TBZ MRLs: US- 10 ppm / EU- 0.01 ppm / JP- 0.05 ppm
- Lack of MRLs established (missing MRLs)
   Ex: China, Hong Kong, other emerging markets
   Ex: 16 US MRLs established for Quinoa vs 141 US MRLs established for Rice
- **Policies for residues with no corresponding MRL** EX: Default, Deferral, both, or neither





# Pesticide Residues: Additional Challenges

- Secondary Standards Ex: LIDL US
- Food Additive Regulations Ex: Post-harvest fungicides in Japan
- International Organic Compliance (in regards to pesticide residues) Ex: Taiwan Organic certifier black list
- The few misleading the many Ex: 100 ppb vs 0.1 ppm of glyphosate





# **Common Reasons for Residue Testing**

Certification Requirements

Ex: Global Gap

Customer Requirements

Ex: One residue test at beginning of season vs per lot testing

#### Internal Pre-Export Testing Programs

Ex: test, hold, ship

#### Verification of Post-Harvest residue concentrations

Ex: Desired residues to reduce decay

### Residue Degradation and process studies

Ex: Develop export market PHI or raw material residue specifications





# Pesticide Residue Analysis: Sampling Considerations

• Residue results are a reflection of application and sampling techniques

## •Specific Sampling SOPs

- •Every commodity is different
- •Sampling location/methods: Field vs Packinghouse vs FDA DWPE
- •Proper Labeling and traceability
- •Consistency: do what you say and say what you do
- •Poor sampling leads to useless results and more money/time lost





# Pesticide Residue Analysis: Laboratory Considerations

- Residue results are also a reflection of the lab analyzing the sample
- Technical Capabilities
  - ISO-17025 Accredited?  $\rightarrow$  Yes
  - Scope of the screen?  $\rightarrow$  300-400 chemicals including metabolites
  - Limits of Quantitation?  $\rightarrow$  0.010 ppm for every chemical
  - Instrumentation?  $\rightarrow$  GC-MS/MS + LC-MS/MS

#### Practical Considerations

- Turnaround times?
- Informative Report Format?
- Additional tools?
- Cost per chemical? Total cost per sample?





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## MRLs: Opportunity Cost vs Non-Compliance Cost

## • 2 types of trade disruptions due to of MRL differences

- 1. Not being able to export product due to residues being over export MRL
- 2. Unknowingly exporting product with residues over destination MRL

### • 1 is more common but 2 is more impactful to industry

- EX: Korea detected Piperonyl Butoxide on US export over Korean MRL
- Impacts:
  - US export industry lost preferential status (only random testing)
  - To regain preferential status there must be zero violations for 5 years
  - Increased surveillance testing increases chances of second violation
- •How to reduce lost opportunities?
- •How to avoid more significant impacts of non-compliance?





## MRL Compliance Strategy: Plan Ahead!!!

#### Communication is the key to success

- Sales picks export markets
- PCAs/Applicators choose the chemicals
- Food Safety/QA conducts the testing to determine compliance

#### • Export market MRL risk assessments

- ID alternative chemicals which have less risk to exceed export market MRL
- Compare application records to ID high risk product for pre-export testing
- •Degradation and Process Studies to increase likelihood of MRL compliance
- Finished product sample for Multi-Residue Analysis prior to exporting





MRL Risk Assessment by Active Ingredient												
Blueberry highbush		Legend:	Low	Medium	High							
Dideberry, mgnbash	Origin	Risk Risk Risk					ort Markets					
	United		Furopean		EXP	ore markets						
Active Ingredient	States	Canada	Union	Japan	Korea	Taiwan	China	Codex	Hong Kong	Australia		
2,4-D	0.2	0.01	0.1	0.1	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1			
Acetamiprid	1.6	1.6	2	2	0.5	1	2	2		1.6		
Aldrin	0.05	0.1	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.05		0.05	0.05		
Azoxystrobin	5	3	5	5	1	5		5	5	5		
Benoxacor	0.01	0.1		0.01								
Bifenthrin	1.8	0.1	0.01	2	0.3	1		3		3		
Boscalid	13	6	15	10	10	10		10	10	15		
Captan	20	5	30	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Carbaryl	3	7	0.01	7	0.5	0.5						
Carfentrazone-ethyl	0.1	0.1	0.01	0.1	0.1	0.1			0.1	0.05		
Chlorantraniliprole	2.5	0.35	1.5	3	1	2	1	1	1	3		
Chlordane	0.1	0.1	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02			
Chlorothalonil	1	0.6	0.01	1	1	1			10	10		
Clethodim	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.01	0.05	0.01				0.2		
Clopyralid	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.01						0.5		
Cryolite	7	0.1	0.01	0.01					7			
Cyantraniliprole	4	4	4	4	4			4		4		
Cyprodinil	3	4	3	5	1	3		10		3		
DDT (DDE, DDD)	0.1	0.1	0.05	0.5	0.05	0.01	0.05		0.05	1		
Diazinon	0.5	0.1	0.01	0.1	0.05	0.5			0.5	0.5		
Dichlobenil	0.15	0.5	0.01	0.01	0.05					1		
Dichlormid	0.05	0.1	0.01	0.01								
Dieldrin	0.05	0.1	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.02		0.05	0.05		
Difenoconazole	4	4	0.1	4	0.5	1						
Dimethoate	1	1	0.01	1	1	0.01				5		
Diquat dibromide	0.05	0.1	0.01	0.03	0.02					0.05		
Diuron	0.1	0.1	0.01	0.05	1	0.01			0.1	0.5		





## US Origin: Highbush Blueberry MRL Risk Summary

#### • 95 US MRLs for Highbush Blueberries







## **US Origin: Almond MRL Risk Summary**

#### • 125 US MRLs for Almonds







## Pesticide Degradation and Process Studies

- Degradation studies can be designed to establish custom PHI's to meet export Market MRLs
- Process studies designed to establish pesticide residue specifications on raw materials in order for processed commodity to be within MRLs
  - EX: Useful for oils, concentrates, dehydrated products, etc...





## Pesticide Residue Degradation Curve: Basic Theoretical Example







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## Pesticide Residue Metabolites: Contradicting Definitions

- Issues arising due to residue definitions and pesticide metabolites are not easy to overcome
- Degradation and Process studies not as effective
- More advanced MRL risk assessment will help identify areas of risk due to metabolite issues to perform pre-export residue testing
- Long Term Solution:
  - harmonizing definitions and enforcement policy to reduce lost opportunities and MRL exceedances due to residue metabolites
- Short term solution:
  - Avoid use of chemicals with metabolite issues in targeted export markets





## **Contradicting Definitions: Thiamethoxam and Clothianidin**

- US and Canadian definition summary:
  - Thiamethoxam= Thiamethoxam+ metabolite Clothianidin
  - Clothianidin= Clothianidin
- 15 commodities have higher US MRLs for the metabolite Clothianidin then they do for the parent molecule Thiamethoxam
- Consequently the use of clothianidin can result in product exceeding US and Canadian Thiamethoxam MRLs
- Issue for domestic growers but also for producers exporting to the US and Canada





## **Contradicting Definitions: Thiamethoxam and Clothianidin**

#### List of Commodities with Higher Clothinadin MRLs than Thiamethoxam

#### MRLs in US and/or Canada:

- 1. Table Grape
- 2. Wine Grape
- 3. Potato
- 4. Apple
- 5. Pear
- 6. Nectarine/peach
- 7. Sweet potato
- 8. Bell pepper (just US)
- 9. non bell pepper
- 10. Carrot
- 11. Tea leaves
- 12. Ginger
- 13. Ginseng
- 14. Turmeric
- 15. Wheat straw (just US)

#### Example: Table Grapes

- Clothianidin US/CA MRL- 0.6 ppm
- Thiamethoxam US/CA MRL- 0.2 ppm

#### **AGQ Reporting Format:**

- Clothianidin=Clothianidin
- Thiamethoxam=Thiamethoxam
- Thiamethoxam (Sum)= Thiamethoxam+Clothianidin





## **Contradicting Definitions: Thiamethoxam and Clothianidin**

The following results were higher or equal to the LOQ:

Parameter	Result	Units	MRL US
Boscalid	0.52	mg/kg	5.00
Clothianidin (SP)	0.33	mg/kg	0.60
Cyprodinil	0.76	mg/kg	3.00
Fludioxonil	0.30	mg/kg	2.00
Iprodione	0.02	mg/kg	60.0
Myclobutanil	0.25	mg/kg	1.00
Pendimethalin	0.01	mg/kg	0.10
Pyraclostrobin	0.27	mg/kg	2.00
Tebuconazole	0.54	mg/kg	5.00
Thiamethoxam (Sum)	0.33	mg/kg	0.20
			NO





## **Total Table Grape Samples Per Year/Country**







# Table Grapes: US/CA Thiamethoxam MRL exceedance due to Clothianidin residues







## Contradicting Definitions: Thiophanate Methyl, Benomyl and Carbendazim

- Residue Definitions for these 3 chemicals vary greatly between Markets
- US
  - •Thiophanate Methyl= Thiophanate Methyl including its metabolite carbendazim
  - Benomyl= NO US MRLs
  - Carbendazim= NO US MRLs
- Japan
  - Carbendazim= Thiophanate Methyl+Benomyl+Carbendazim
- EU
  - Thiophanate Methyl= Thiophanate Methyl
  - Carbendazim= Carbendazim+Benomyl





# Contradicting Definitions: Thiophanate Methyl, Benomyl, and Carbendazim US Scenarios

- Carbendazim residues can be present as a result of the following:
  - Metabolite of Thiophanate Methyl application
  - Metabolite of Benomyl application
  - Direct Application of Carbendazim
- Benomyl residues can be present as a result of:
  - Direct application of Benomyl
- Thiophanate Methyl residues can be present as a result of:
  - Direct Application of Thiophanate Methyl





## **Total Strawberry Samples per Year/Country**







### Strawberries: US MRL Violations due to Benomyl+Carbendadizm







## **Total Wine Samples per Year/Country**







#### Wine: US MRL Violations due to Benomyl+Carbendadizm







## Conclusions

- Companies who master managing export MRL compliance have competitive advantage and help maintain good reputation for their respective industry
- Important for trade associations to protect their industry's by educating on the impacts MRL non-compliances and encouraging pre-export testing
- Results are only as good as the samples taken and the laboratory analyzing them
- •Help from regulatory bodies, registrants and agrochemical industry to minimize impacts due to contradictory residue definitions





#### Sources

# All MRLs sourced from **globalmrl.com**







