



The MRL processes in the UK (GB and NI)

Health and Safety Executive

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What will be covered?

- Overview of Plant Protection Product regulation and EU Exit
- MRLs for GB
- MRLs for NI
- New/raised MRLs for GB (including Import Tolerances)
- MRL supplementary information for GB
- MRL Reviews for GB
- WTO/SPS for GB
- The JMPR and Codex MRLs

EU Exit and PPPs

- UK formally left the EU 31 January 2020 & entered a transition period until 31 December 2020
- Independent GB chemicals regulations needed to be established
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020
- Northern Ireland Protocol

Regulation after the T.P

From 1st January 2021:

- In GB (England, Scotland and Wales) Regs 1107/2009 and 396/2005 converted into national law
- In NI, EU Regs 1107/2009 and 396/2005 continue to apply directly
- The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 (which implemented the Directive) continue to apply in whole UK

EU Exit and PPPs

- Independent pesticides regulatory regime established for GB
- Responsibility for active substance and maximum residue levels (MRLs) decisions repatriated
- All regulatory standards and technical requirements retained
- HSE acts as regulator on behalf of Defra and Devolved Administrations
- Inevitably some divergence from EU in GB

Maximum Residue Levels for GB

- All EU MRLs implemented prior to 1st January 2021 adopted as GB MRLs
- Great Britain sets MRLs based on our own assessments but all existing MRLs will remain valid until they are amended
- New MRL applications, including Import Tolerances, should be submitted in a similar format
- There are no changes in the data requirements, guidance or format for supporting information for new applications:
 - Regulation (EC) No 544/2011 – old data requirements
 - Regulation (EC) No 283/2013 – new data requirements

Maximum Residue Levels for NI

- Under the Northern Ireland Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement (NIP), EU law applies in Northern Ireland.
- EU MRLs apply to food or feed produced in or imported into and marketed within Northern Ireland. Any EU decisions on MRLs will apply in Northern Ireland.
- EU MRL reviews
 - HSE submits GAP and data to support authorisations in NI

New/Raised MRLs for GB

- Information on the new MRL processes are outlined on the HSE website
- GB specific documents are available on the HSE website
- New MRLs and IT assessed typically within 12 months (+ 6 months)
- New MRL decisions delivered typically within 3 months of assessment

New/Raised MRLs for GB

- Evaluation Reports/Reasoned Opinions and Decision Documents will be published
 - ER/RO – Evaluation of data and Recommendation
 - Decision Document – Link between recommendation and final decision
- MRLs implemented by means of a Statutory Register

<https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/MRLs/Main>

- Stakeholder information via HSE's ebulletin service

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/subscribe/index.htm>

Supplementary Information for GB

- Also known as **MRL confirmatory data**
- Data gaps identified in the EU MRL reviews and implemented prior to **1st January 2021**
 - Retained for GB MRLs along with data submission deadline
 - Supplementary information should be submitted to HSE

MRL Reviews for GB

- A formal MRL review programme will be implemented **within 3 years**
- Prior to the formal review, reviews may be initiated when:
 - **A risk to UK consumers has been identified**
 - **Renewal of an active substance**
- The aim will be to:
 - **Limit review to specific commodities**
 - **Review all MRLs only when necessary**

WTO/SPS for GB

- GB MRLs may be lowered following the outcome of:
 - A non-approval decision of an active substance
 - An MRL review
 - MRL supplementary information
- Proposals to lower MRLs will be notified to the WTO
 - Dimethoate/Omethoate – March 2021
- Defra is the UK's notification authority and enquiry point team and coordinates the UK's WTO/SPS notifications

JMPR and Codex MRLs (CXLs)

- The UK has attended the JMPR since 2017 and the CCPR since 2018
 - Main FAO and WHO meetings
 - Supported the extra JMPR meeting in 2019 and 2021
 - Participated in several eWG of the CCPR
- CXLs are not automatically adopted. CXLs will be adopted as GB MRLs:
 - Residue definitions are comparable
 - No public health concerns for UK consumers
 - GB MRL is lower
- GB MRLs are not currently set for processed commodities and feed items (e.g. forages, straw, sugar beet leaves)

Thank You For Listening

For more information

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/mrls/index.htm>

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