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Chile

Trade Policy Monitoring

Frequently Asked Questions about Pesticides

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This document was prepared based on responses given by the Ministry of Health.

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General

Which government agencies are involved in MRL establishment and what are their responsibilities?

The Ministry of Health is the primary government agency responsible for ensuring food safety by establishing the MRL in domestic consumption food. Their mandate is to protect the health and nutrition of the population by guaranteeing food safety. Although the Ministry of Agriculture approves pesticides on crops, the Ministry of Health set the MRLs on food products.

What laws and regulations guide the development and enforcement of MRLs for pesticides?

The Sanitary Food Regulation 977/96. Resolution N° 581 exempt dated February 23, 1999, Ministry of Health.

What is the process for the establishment of MRLs?

Revising and using the Codex's Alimentary Committees recommendations from the 29th meeting of April 1997, for residues of pesticides. Taking into account only pesticides that have reached the last step for approval.

How frequently is the printed copy or website listing of MRLs updated?

There is no established frequency. The Ministry of Health publishes modifications, as they deem necessary. However, they can decide to enforce a prohibition of use for a specific pesticide (Resolution 581 N° 2, Ministry of Health) at any time.

Is there a defined regulatory process for the establishment of import MRLs?

Imports have to comply with the enforced ruling mentioned above.

What residues of pesticides define the MRL? That is, is only the parent chemical measured or are specific metabolites included?

Only the parent chemical is measured. All the chemical products are defined in Resolution N° 581 of 1999.

Are MRLs established for crop groups, individual crops or both?

The Ministry of Health establishes MRLs for domestic consumption food products only. The Ministry of Agriculture establishes MRLs for both, crop groups and individual crops.

Does your country have a routine surveillance/testing program for pesticide residues in imported foods? If so, please describe it, i.e., number of samples tested, how priorities are identified, are results made available, sampling and testing procedures, etc.

There is no routine control program.

Does your country accept Codex MRLs? If not, do Codex MRLs play any role?

The Codex MRLs are accepted. They are used as a reference for the Norm.

What actions are taken when residues are found above the MRL?

The food is declared as unsuitable for human consumption. Measures and sanctions are established in the Sanitary Code.

Are there default pesticide enforcement levels? What are they?

Codex

Provide the name, office telephone and email address of a pertinent government official for user contact purposes

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