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POLICY

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Japan proposes the revision of MRLs for 6 agricultural chemicals

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Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On Friday, February 10, 2017, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) of the Government of Japan (GOJ) announced changes to the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for the pesticides Isofetamid, Sulfoxaflor, Famoxadone, Fenazaquin, and Metamifop as well as a veterinary drug Melengestrol Acetate. The Embassy comment period for these proposals is open until Friday, February 24, 2017. MHLW will also notify those MRLs becoming more restrictive to the WTO, which will allow another opportunity for interested parties to comment on these changes.

General Information:

Item 1. Establishment of the Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals in Food

The Food Sanitation Act authorizes the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits, “MRLs”) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as “agricultural and veterinary chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions in Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the act is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless it complies with the established standards.

On May 29, 2006, Japan introduced the Positive List System¹ for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food. All foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation of the system.

The MHLW is going to modify or newly set MRLs in some commodities for the following substances:

Pesticide: Isofetamid, Sulfoxaflor, Famoxadone, Fenazaquin, Metamifop

Veterinary drug: Melengestrol Acetate

¹ The aim of the positive list system is to prohibit the distribution of any foods which contain agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) in the Japanese marketplace unless specific maximum residue limits (MRLs) have been set.

Summary

Isofetamid (fungicide): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting MRLs by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF). The MHLW is also going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting import tolerances based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan (Shokuan No. 0205001, 5 February2004). This action will not strengthen the current regulation for any commodities. (Will not be notified to the WTO.)

Sulfoxaflor (insecticide): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting MRLs by the Ministry of MAFF. The MHLW is also going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting import tolerances based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan (Shokuan No. 0205001, 5 February2004). This action will not strengthen the current regulation for any commodities. (Will not be notified to the WTO.)

Famoxadone (fungicide): Permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting MRLs by the MAFF.

Fenazaquin (insecticide, acaricide): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting import tolerances based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Used outside Japan (Shokuan No. 0205001, 5 February 2004). This action will not strengthen the current regulation for any commodities. (Will not be notified to the WTO.)

Metamifop (herbicide): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to establish MRLs in some commodities in response to a request for setting MRLs by the MAFF. This action will not strengthen the current regulation for any commodities. (Will not be notified to the WTO.)

Melengestrol Acetate (synthetic hormone): Not permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW is going to modify MRLs in some commodities that were provisionally set at the introduction of the Positive List System.

Isfetamid

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Soybeans, dry	○ 0.05		Request		
Beans, dry	○ 0.05		Request		
Peas	○ 0.05		Request		
Broad beans	○ 0.05		Request		
Other pulses	○ 0.05		Request		
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	○ 20		Request		
Onion	○ 0.05		Request		
Cucumber (including gherkin)	○ 1		Request		
Peas, immature (with pods)	○ 20		Request		
Strawberry	○ 4		IT		4.0 USA
Blueberry	○ 4		IT		4.0 USA
Cranberry	○ 4		IT		4.0 USA
Other berries	○ 4		IT		4.0 USA
Grape	○ 10		Request		

Note: The residue definition is Isfetamid only.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the Commodity column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

O : Commodities for which MRLs are to be maintained, increased or newly set

Request : The MRL is to be modified in response to MAFF request

IT : Import tolerance

Sulfoxaflor

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Rice (brown rice)	○ 1		Request			
Wheat	○ 0.2			0.2		
Barley	○ 0.6			0.6		
Other cereal grains	○ 0.2			0.2		
Soybeans, dry	○ 0.3			0.3		
Broad beans	○ 0.2		IT		0.2	USA
Potato	○ 0.05		IT	0.03	0.05	USA
Taro	○ 0.03			0.03		
Sweet potato	○ 0.05		IT	0.03	0.05	USA
Yam	○ 0.05		IT	0.03	0.05	USA
Other potatoes	○ 0.03			0.03		
Sugar beet	○ 0.05		IT	0.03	0.05	USA
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)	○ 0.2		Request	0.03		
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)	○ 10		Request	6		
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)	○ 0.05		IT	0.03	0.05	USA
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)	○ 6			6		
Horseradish	○ 0.03			0.03		
Watercress	○ 6			6		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Chinese cabbage	○ 6			6		
Cabbage	○ 2		Request • IT	0.4	2.0	USA
Brussels sprouts	○ 2		IT		2.0	USA
Kale	○ 6			6		
Komatsuna(Japanese mustard spinach)	○ 6			6		
Kyona	○ 6			6		
Qing-geng-cai	○ 6			6		
Cauliflower	○ 0.08		IT	0.04	0.08	USA
Broccoli	○ 3			3		
Other cruciferous vegetables	○ 6			6		
Burdock	○ 0.03			0.03		
Salsify	○ 0.03			0.03		
Chicory	○ 6			6		
Endive	○ 6			6		
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	○ 6		Request	6		
Other composite vegetables	○ 6			6		
Onion	○ 0.01			0.01		
Garlic	○ 0.01			0.01		
Other liliaceous vegetables	○ 0.7			0.7		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Carrot	○ 0.05		IT		0.05	USA
Parsnip	○ 0.03			0.03		
Parsley	○ 6		IT		6.0	USA
Celery	○ 2			1.5		
Other umbelliferous vegetables	○ 0.03			0.03		
Tomato	○ 2		Request	1.5		
Pimiento (sweet pepper)	○ 2			1.5		
Egg plant	○ 2			1.5		
Other solanaceous vegetables	○ 6			6		
Cucumber (including gherkin)	○ 0.7		Request	0.5		
Pumpkin (including squash)	○ 0.5			0.5		
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables	○ 6			6		
Spinach	○ 6			6		
Okra	○ 2			1.5		
Peas, immature (with pods)	○ 4		IT		4.0	USA
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)	○ 4		IT		4.0	USA
Shiitake mushroom	○ 2			1.5		
Other mushrooms	○ 2			1.5		
Other vegetables	○ 6			6		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Unshu orange, pulp	○ 0.2		Request			
Citrus natsudaidai, whole	○ 2		Request			
Lemon	○ 2		Request	0.4		
Orange (including navel orange)	○ 2		Request	0.8		
Grapefruit	○ 2		Request	0.15		
Lime	○ 2		Request	0.4		
Other citrus fruits	○ 2		Request	0.8		
Apple	○ 0.7		Request	0.3		
Japanese pear	○ 1		Request	0.3		
Pear	○ 1		Request	0.3		
Quince	○ 0.3			0.3		
Nectarine	○ 3		IT	0.4	3.0	USA
Apricot	○ 3		IT	0.4	3.0	USA
Japanese plum (including prune)	○ 3		IT	0.5	3.0	USA
Cherry	○ 3		IT	1.5	3.0	USA
Strawberry	○ 0.5			0.5		
Blueberry	○ 0.7		IT		0.7	USA
Cranberry	○ 0.7		IT		0.7	USA
Grape	○ 2			2		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Other fruits	○ 2			1.5		
Cotton seeds	○ 0.4			0.4		
Rapeseeds	○ 0.4		IT	0.15	0.4	USA
Chestnut	○ 0.02		IT	0.015	0.015	USA
Pecan	○ 0.02		IT	0.015	0.015	USA
Almond	○ 0.02		IT	0.015	0.015	USA
Walnut	○ 0.02		IT	0.015	0.015	USA
Other nuts	○ 0.02		IT	0.015	0.015	USA
Other spices	○ 10		Request	0.03		
Other herbs	○ 6			6		
Cattle, muscle	○ 0.3			0.3		
Pig, muscle	○ 0.3			0.3		
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	○ 0.3			0.3		
Cattle, fat	○ 0.1			0.1		
Pig, fat	○ 0.1			0.1		
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	○ 0.1			0.1		
Cattle, liver	○ 0.6			0.6		
Pig, liver	○ 0.6			0.6		
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	○ 0.6			0.6		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Cattle, kidney	○ 0.6			0.6	
Pig, kidney	○ 0.6			0.6	
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	○ 0.6			0.6	
Cattle, edible offal	○ 0.6			0.6	
Pig, edible offal	○ 0.6			0.6	
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	○ 0.6			0.6	
Milk	○ 0.2			0.2	
Chicken, muscle	○ 0.1			0.1	
Other poultry animals, muscle	○ 0.1			0.1	
Chicken, fat	○ 0.03			0.03	
Other poultry animals, fat	○ 0.03			0.03	
Chicken, liver	○ 0.3			0.3	
Other poultry animals, liver	○ 0.3			0.3	
Chicken, kidney	○ 0.3			0.3	
Other poultry animals, kidney	○ 0.3			0.3	
Chicken, edible offal	○ 0.3			0.3	
Other poultry animals, edible offal	○ 0.3			0.3	
Chicken, eggs	○ 0.1			0.1	
Other poultry, eggs	○ 0.1			0.1	

Note: The residue definition is sum of all isomers of Sulfoxaflor.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the Commodity column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

O : Commodities for which MRLs are to be maintained, increased or newly set

Request : The MRL is to be modified in response to MAFF request

IT : Import tolerance

Famoxadone

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Wheat	○ 0.1	0.1		0.1		
Barley	○ 0.2	0.2		0.2		
Soybeans, dry	○ 0.2	0.2	§			
Potato	○ 0.05	0.05	§	0.02		
Chinese cabbage	○ 0.7	0.7	§			
Cauliflower	○ 0.1	0.1			0.1	EU
Broccoli	○ 3	0.1	Request			
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	○ 25	25			25	USA
Onion	○ 0.5	0.5	§		0.45	USA
Welsh (including leek)	○ 2	2			2	EU
Garlic	○ 0.5	0.5			0.45	USA
Other liliaceous vegetables	○ 0.5	0.5	§		0.45	USA
Tomato	○ 2	2	§	2		
Pimiento (sweet pepper)	○ 4	4			4.0	USA
Egg plant	○ 4	4	§		4.0	USA
Other solanaceous vegetables	○ 4	4			4.0	USA
Cucumber (including gherkin)	○ 0.5	0.5	§	0.2		
Pumpkin (including squash)	○ 0.2	0.2		0.2		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Water melon	● 0.05	0.1	§			
Melons	● 0.05	0.1	§			
Raspberry	○ 10	10			10	USA
Blackberry	○ 10	10			10	USA
Other berries	○ 10	10			10	USA
Grape	○ 2	2	§	2		
Other fruits	○ 4	4			4.0	USA
Hop	○ 80	80			80	USA
Other herbs	○ 2	2			2	EU
Cattle, muscle	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		
Pig, muscle	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		
Cattle, fat	○ 0.5	0.5				
Pig, fat	○ 0.5	0.5				
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	○ 0.5	0.5				
Cattle, liver	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		
Pig, liver	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		
Cattle, kidney	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5		

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Pig, kidney	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5	
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5	
Cattle, edible offal	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5	
Pig, edible offal	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5	
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	○ 0.5	0.5		0.5	
Milk	○ 0.03	0.03		0.03	
Chicken, muscle	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Other poultry animals, muscle	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Chicken, fat	○ 0.01	0.01			
Other poultry animals, fat	○ 0.01	0.01			
Chicken, liver	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Other poultry animals, liver	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Chicken, kidney	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Other poultry animals, kidney	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Chicken, edible offal	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Other poultry animals, edible offal	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Chicken, eggs	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Other poultry, eggs	○ 0.01	0.01		0.01	
Fish	○ 0.2	0.2			

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Wheat bran	○ 0.2	0.2		0.2	
Raisin	○ 5	5		5	

Note: The residue definition is Famoxadone only.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the Commodity column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

● : Commodities for which MRLs are to be lowered or deleted

○ : Commodities for which MRLs are to be maintained, increased or newly set

§ : Permitted for use in Japan.

Request : The MRL is to be modified in response to MAFF request

Fenazaquin

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Cherry	○ 2		IT		2.0 USA
Almond	○ 0.02		IT		0.02 USA
Tea	○ 10		IT		10 EU

Note: The residue definition is Fenazaquin only.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

○ : Commodities for which MRLs are to be maintained, increased or newly set

IT : Import tolerance

Metamifop

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL	
				Codex ppm	National ppm
Rice (brown rice)	○ 0.02		Request		

Note: The residue definition is Metamifop only.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

○ : Commodities for which MRLs are to be maintained, increased or newly set

Request: The MRL is to be modified in response to MAFF request

Melengestrol Acetate

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Cattle, muscle	● 0.001	0.03		0.001		
Pig, muscle	● ND					
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	● ND					
Cattle, fat	● 0.02	0.03		0.018		
Pig, fat	● ND					
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	● ND					
Cattle, liver	● 0.01	0.03		0.010		
Pig, liver	● ND					
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	● ND					
Cattle, kidney	● 0.002	0.03		0.002		
Pig, kidney	● ND					
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	● ND					
Cattle, edible offal	● 0.01	0.03				
Pig, edible offal	● ND					
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	● ND					
Milk	● ND					
Chicken, muscle	● ND					
Other poultry, muscle	● ND					

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm	Registration	Reference MRL		
				Codex ppm	National ppm	
Chicken, fat	● ND					
Other poultry, fat	● ND					
Chicken, liver	● ND					
Other poultry, liver	● ND					
Chicken, kidney	● ND					
Other poultry, kidney	● ND					
Chicken, edible offal	● ND					
Other poultry, edible offal	● ND					
Chicken eggs	● ND					
Other poultry, eggs	● ND					

Note: The residue definition is Melengestrol Acetate only.

* ND means that this substance shall not be detected in foods.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* In the Commodity column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

● : Commodities for which MRLs are to be lowered or deleted

Notes:

“Other cereal grains” refers to all cereal grains, except rice (brown rice), wheat, barley, rye, corn (maize), and buckwheat.

“Beans, dry” including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pegia, sultani, sultapya.

“Other legumes/pulses” refers to all legumes/pulses, except soybeans (dry), beans (dry), peas, broad beans, peanuts (dry), and spices.

“Other potatoes” refers to all potatoes, except potato, taro, sweet potato, yam, and konjac.

“Other cruciferous vegetables” refers to all cruciferous vegetables, except Japanese radish roots and leaves (including radish), turnip roots and leaves, horseradish, watercress, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, brussels sprouts, kale, *komatsuna* (Japanese mustard spinach), *kyona*, qing-geng-cai, cauliflower, broccoli, and herbs.

“Other composite vegetables” refers to all composite vegetables, except burdock, salsify, artichoke, chicory, endive, *shungiku*, lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce), and herbs.

“Other liliaceous vegetables” refers to all liliaceous vegetables, except onion, welsh (including leek), garlic, *nira*, asparagus, multiplying onion, and herbs.

“Other umbelliferous vegetables” refers to all umbelliferous vegetables, except carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, *mitsuba*, spices, and herbs.

“Other solanaceous vegetables” refers to all solanaceous vegetables, except tomato, pimiento (sweet pepper), and egg plant.

“Other cucurbitaceous vegetables” refers to all cucurbitaceous vegetables, except cucumber (including gherkin), pumpkin (including squash), oriental pickling melon (vegetable), watermelon, melons, and *makuwauri* melon.

“Other mushrooms” refers to all mushrooms, except button mushroom, and *shiitake* mushroom.

“Other vegetables” refers to all vegetables, except potatoes, sugar beet, sugarcane, cruciferous vegetables, composite vegetables, liliaceous vegetables, umbelliferous vegetables, solanaceous vegetables, cucurbitaceous vegetables, spinach, bamboo shoots, okra, ginger, peas (with pods, immature), kidney beans (with pods, immature), green soybeans, mushrooms, spices, and herbs.

“Other citrus fruits” refers to all citrus fruits, except *unshu* orange (pulp), citrus *natsudaidai* (pulp), citrus *natsudaidai* (peel), citrus *natsudaidai* (whole), lemon, orange (including navel orange), grapefruit, lime, and spices.

“Other berries” refers to all berries, except strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, and huckleberry.

“Other fruits” refers to all fruits, except citrus fruits, apple, Japanese pear, pear, quince, loquat, peach, nectarine, apricot, Japanese plum (including prune), mume plum, cherry, berries, grape, Japanese persimmon, banana, kiwifruit, papaya, avocado, pineapple, guava, mango, passion fruit, date and spices.

“Other oil seeds” refers to all oil seeds, except sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, safflower seeds, cotton seeds, rapeseeds and spices.

“Other nuts” refers to all nuts, except ginkgo nut, chestnut, pecan, almond and walnut.
“Other spices” refers to all spices, except horseradish, *wasabi* (Japanese horseradish) rhizomes, garlic, peppers chili, paprika, ginger, lemon peels, orange peels (including navel orange), *yuzu* (Chinese citron) peels and sesame seeds.

“Other herbs” refers to all herbs, except watercress, *nira*, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.

“Edible offal” refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney.

“Other terrestrial mammals” refers to all terrestrial mammals, except cattle and pig.

“Other poultry animals” refers to all poultry, except chicken.

“Other fish” refers to all fish, except salmoniformes, anguilliformes, and perciformes.

“Other aquatic animals” refers to all aquatic animal, except fish, shelled molluscs and crustaceans.