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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

PMRL2014-78

# Glyphosate

*(publié aussi en français)*

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing to establish a maximum residue limit (MRL) for glyphosate on undelinted cotton seeds to permit the import and sale of foods containing such residues.

Glyphosate is an herbicide currently registered in Canada for use on various commodities.

The PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the imported food commodities when glyphosate is used according to label directions in the exporting country, and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as an MRL on the corresponding imported commodity. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for glyphosate is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document). A summary of the field trial data used to support the proposed MRL can be found in Appendix I.

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRL, to be added to the MRLs already established for glyphosate, is as follows.

**Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Glyphosate**

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm) <sup>1</sup>	Food Commodity
Glyphosate	N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine, including the metabolite aminomethylphosphonic acid	40	Undelinted cotton seeds

<sup>1</sup> ppm = parts per million

MRLs established in Canada may be found using the Maximum Residue Limit Database on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage. The database allows users to search for established MRLs, regulated under the *Pest Control Products Act*, both for pesticides or for food commodities.

### International Situation and Trade Implications

The MRLs proposed for glyphosate in Canada are the same as corresponding American tolerances and Codex MRLs.<sup>1</sup> American tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal

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<sup>1</sup> The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. A listing of established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website, by pesticide or commodity.

### **Next Steps**

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for glyphosate up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRL. Comments received will be addressed in a separate document linked to this PMRL. The established MRL will be legally in effect as of the date that they are entered into the Maximum Residue Limit Database.

## APPENDIX I

### Summary of Field Trial Data Used to Support the Proposed MRL

Residue data for glyphosate in glyphosate-tolerant cotton (Roundup Ready Flex cotton) were submitted to support the maximum residue limit on imported undelinted cotton seeds. In addition, a processing study in treated glyphosate-tolerant cotton was reviewed to determine the potential for concentration of residues of glyphosate into processed commodities.

#### Maximum Residue Limit

The recommendation for a maximum residue limit (MRL) for glyphosate was based upon the submitted field trial data, and the guidance provided in the OECD MRL Calculator. Table A1 summarizes the residue data used to calculate the proposed MRL for imported undelinted cotton seeds.

**Table A1      Summary of Field Trial and Processing Data Used to Support the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)**

Commodity	Application Method/Total Application Rate (g a.i./ha)	Pre-harvest interval (days)	Residues <sup>1</sup> (ppm)		Experimental Processing Factor
			Min	Max	
Undelinted cotton seeds	Foliar / 6550-6866	6-8	3.05	30.8	NA

1. Combined residues of glyphosate and the AMPA metabolite

Following the review of all available data, the MRL as proposed in Table 1 is recommended to cover the combined residues of glyphosate, including the metabolite AMPA. Total residues of glyphosate in imported undelinted cotton seeds at the proposed MRL will not pose an unacceptable risk to any segment of the population, including infants, children, adults and seniors.