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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

Propylene Oxide

(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 propylene oxide on almonds, to permit the import and sale of foods containing these residues.

Propylene oxide is a fumigant used for control of insect infestation and bacterial contamination of food products in the United States, but is not currently registered for use in Canada.

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the imported food commodity when propylene oxide is used according to label directions in the exporting country. The Agency has also determined that such residues will not be a concern to human health and is proposing to legally establish a corresponding import MRL. 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.

Details regarding the proposed import MRL can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available on the [Pesticides and Pest Management](#) portion of Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.¹

Consultation on the proposed import MRL for propylene oxide is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps).

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

The proposed MRL for propylene oxide in Canada in or on food is as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Propylene Oxide

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Propylene Oxide	2-methyloxirane, including the metabolites 1-bromo-2-propanol, 2-bromo-1-propanol, 1-chloro-2-propanol and 2-chloro-1-propanol	300	Almonds

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the PMRA's [Maximum Residue Limit webpage](#).

¹ The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/All/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under the Application Number 2007-6100.

International Situation and Trade Implications

The proposed Canadian MRL is the same as the corresponding tolerance established in the United States (tolerances listed in [40 CFR Part 180](#) by pesticide). Currently, Codex MRLs² have not been established for propylene oxide on any commodity ([Codex MRLs](#) searchable by pesticide or commodity).

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed import MRL for propylene oxide 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 import MRL for propylene oxide and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) document on the PMRA website.

² Codex is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.