Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2015-33

Imazamethabenz-methyl

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the addition of the new use on borage to the product label of Assert® 300 SC Herbicide, containing technical grade imazamethabenz-methyl, is acceptable. The specific use approved in Canada is detailed on the label of Assert® 300 SC Herbicide, Pest Control Products Act Registration Number 21032.

The evaluation of this imazamethabenz-methyl application indicated that the end-use product has value and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new use are acceptable.

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (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.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for imazamethabenz-methyl 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 MRL is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by Canada's Notification Authority and Enquiry Point.

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

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Imazamethabenz-methyl

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)[1]	Food Commodity
Imazamethabenz-methyl	methyl 2-[4,5-dihydro-4-methyl-4-(1-methylethyl)-5-oxo-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl]-4(*or* 5)-methylbenzoate	0.05	Borage seeds

[1] 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

There is no American tolerance for imazamethabenz-methyl on borage seeds according to the tolerances listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. Currently, there are no Codex MRLs[1] listed for imazamethabenz-methyl in or on any commodity on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food webpage.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for imazamethabenz-methyl 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 it is entered into the Maximum Residue Limit Database.

[1] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

Appendix I

Summary of Field Trial Data Used to Support the Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

Residue data from field trials conducted in Canada were submitted to support the domestic use of Assert® 300 SC Herbicide on borage. Imazamethabenz-methyl was applied to borage at exaggerated rates, which were harvested according to the proposed label directions. In addition, a processing study in treated borage was reviewed to determine the potential for concentration of residues of imazamethabenz-methyl in processed commodities.

Maximum Residue Limit

The recommendation for a maximum residue limit (MRL) for imazamethabenz-methyl 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 borage seeds.

Table A1 Summary of Field Trial and Processing Data Used to Support MRL

Commodity	Application Method/ Total Application Rate (g a.i./ha)[1]	Preharvest Interval (days)	Maximum Residues (ppm)	Minimum Residues (ppm)	Experimental Processing Factor
Borage seeds	Broadcast/ 478-514	48-69	<0.05	<0.05	As residues were <LOQ in the raw agricultural commodity and the processed commodities (borage meal and oil), a processing factor could not be calculated.

[1] g a.i./ha = grams of active ingredient per hectare

Following the review of all available data, the MRL as proposed in Table 1 is recommended to cover residues of imazamethabenz-methyl. Residues of imazamethabenz-methyl in borage seeds at the proposed MRL will not pose an unacceptable risk to any segment of the population, including infants, children, adults and seniors.