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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

PMRL2023-26

Fenhexamid

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Purpose of consultation

Maximum residue limits (MRLs)¹ are being proposed for the pesticide fenhexamid, as part of the following applications for Canadian use under submission numbers 2017-5716 and 2017-5718.

Under the authority of the [Pest Control Products Act](#), Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing acceptability of the requested applications to add the new commodities of dry bulb onions and green onions to the product label of Elevate 50 WDG Fungicide containing technical grade fenhexamid, for the control of botrytis leaf blight (*Botrytis squamosa*). The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on this product label, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number [25900](#).

The evaluation of these fenhexamid applications indicated that the end-use product has value and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable. Dietary risks from the consumption of foods listed in Table 1 were shown to be acceptable when fenhexamid is used according to the supported label directions. Therefore, foods containing residues resulting from these uses¹ are safe to eat, and MRLs are being proposed as a result of this assessment. A summary of the field trial data used to support the proposed MRLs can be found in [Appendix I](#).

Dietary health assessment

In assessing the risk of a pesticide, Health Canada combines information on pesticide toxicity with information on the degree and duration of dietary exposure to the pesticide residue from food. The risk assessment process involves four distinct steps:

- 1) Identifying the toxicology hazards posed by the pesticide;
- 2) Determining the "acceptable dietary level" for Canadians (including all vulnerable populations), which is protective of adverse health effects;
- 3) Estimating human dietary exposure to the pesticide from all applicable sources (domestic and imported commodities); and
- 4) Characterizing human risk by comparing the estimated human dietary exposure to the acceptable dietary level.

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, Health Canada must determine the quantity of residues that could 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 (Steps 3 and 4 above). If estimated human exposure is less than or equal to the acceptable level (developed in Step 2 above), Health Canada concludes that consuming residues resulting from use according to approved label directions is not a health concern. The proposed MRL is then subject to consultation to legally specify it as an MRL. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except for certain instances where different MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and its processed product(s).

¹ A maximum residue limit (MRL) is the maximum amount of residue that may remain in or on food when a pesticide is used according to label directions.

Consultation on the proposed MRLs for fenhexamid is being conducted via this document. Health Canada invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for fenhexamid in accordance with the process outlined in the Next steps Section of this document.

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 [Canada’s Notification Authority and Enquiry Point](#).

Proposed MRLs

The proposed MRLs, to be added to the MRLs already established for fenhexamid, are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Proposed maximum residue limits for fenhexamid

Common name	Residue definition	MRL (ppm) ¹	Food commodity
Fenhexamid	<i>N</i> -(2,3-dichloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide	30	Green onions (crop subgroup 3-07B)
		2.0	Bulb onions (crop subgroup 3-07A)

¹ ppm = parts per million

The commodities included in the listed crop groups/subgroups can be found on the [Residue Chemistry Crop Groups](#) webpage in the [Pesticides section](#) of Canada.ca.

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 fenhexamid in Canada are the same as corresponding American tolerances as listed in the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#), 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. Currently, there are no Codex MRLs² listed for fenhexamid in or on the petitioned commodities on the Codex Alimentarius [Pesticide Index](#) webpage.

Next steps

Health Canada invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for fenhexamid 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).

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

Health Canada will consider all comments received and a science-based approach will be applied in making a final decision on the proposed MRLs. Comments received will be addressed in a separate document linked to this PMRL. The established MRLs 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 maximum residue limits

Residue data for fenhexamid were submitted to support the use of Elevate 50 WDG Fungicide on dry bulb onions and green onions.

Dietary risk assessment results

Studies in laboratory animals showed no acute health effects. Consequently, a single dose of fenhexamid is not likely to cause acute health effects in the general population (including infants and children).

Chronic dietary (food plus drinking water) intake estimates indicated that the general population and all population subgroups are exposed to less than 37% of the acceptable daily intake, and therefore there are no health concerns.

Maximum residue limits

The recommendation for maximum residue limits (MRLs) for fenhexamid 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 MRLs for bulb onions (crop subgroup 3-07A) and green onions (crop subgroup 3-07B).

Table A1 Summary of field trial data used to support the MRLs

Commodity	Application method/Total application rate (g a.i./ha) ¹	Preharvest interval (days)	Lowest average field trial residues (ppm)	Highest average field trial residues (ppm)
Dry bulb onions	Foliar directed/ 3347–3480	0	<0.02	1.33
Green onions	Foliar/ 3390–3692	0	2.55	11.67

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

Following the review of all available data, the MRLs proposed in Table 1 are recommended in order to cover residues of fenhexamid. Dietary risks from exposure to residues of fenhexamid in these crop commodities at the proposed MRLs were shown to be acceptable for the general population and all subpopulations, including infants, children, adults and seniors. Thus, the foods that contain residues as listed in Table 1 are considered safe to eat.

References

PMRA#	Citation
2807118	2011, Residue Report - "Fenhexamid: Magnitude of the Residue on Onion", DACO: 7.4.1,7.4.2