



Australian Government



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# An Australian perspective – global solutions

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# Introduction

- Role created by the Australian Government in 2021 to step-up Australia's contribution to the multilateral institutions and global policy debates that underpin agricultural trade.
- Focus today will be on the economic imperatives for improving our approach to MRLs.
- Presentation will have three parts.
  1. Australian Government approach to MRLs
  2. Case study: Australian wheat
  3. Case study: Australian wine



# Australian Government policy and practice

Assessment framework for MRLs underpinned by three principles:

1. Risk-based
2. Based on internationally accepted guidance
3. Premised on the specific risks associated with chemical use in Australia





# Australian Government policy and practice

Australia applies three criteria when assessing applications for pesticide use:

- Safety
- Trade
- Efficacy

Residues Risk Assessments are based on:

- Consideration of the proposed label or permit instructions
- A dietary exposure assessment

Australia's system for assessing import MRLs is based on harmonisation with Codex MRLs or the MRL of the exporting country.



# Case study: Australian wheat

- Australia accounts for 10 – 15% of global wheat trade.
- Unaligned MRLs impact the bottom line of Australian wheat exporters through:
  - Compliance cost
  - Compliance-risk cost
  - Market access

Table: MRLs for pesticides in key wheat export markets.

Chemical	Codex	Australia	China	Indonesia	Japan	South Korea	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam
2,4-D	2	0.2	2T	2	0.5	2 (IT)	2 (Cod)	2 (Cod)	2 (Cod)	2
Chlorpyrifos	0.5	T0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4 (IT)	0.5 (Cod)	0.5 (Cod)	0.5 (Cod)	0.5
Chlorpyrifos-methyl	3	10	5T	10	10	3 (IT)	3 (Cod)	3 (Cod)	3 (Cod)	10
Clopyralid	0	2	2	0	2	3 (IT)	0.01 D	0	0.01 D	0
Deltamethrin	2	2	0.5	0	2	2 (IT)	2 (Cod)	2 (Cod)	2 (Cod)	2
Diquat	0	2	2	2	2	2 (Ex)	0.01 D	0	0.01 D	2
Fenitrothion	6	10	5T	0	1	0.2 (Ex)	6 (Cod)	6 (Cod)	6 (Cod)	6
Glyphosate	30	5	5	0	30	5 (IT)	30 (Cod)	30 (Cod)	30 (Cod)	30
MCPA	0.2	0.02*	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2 (IT)	0.2 (Cod)	0.2 (Cod)	0.2 (Cod)	0.2
Salfufenacil	0.7	0.2	0	0	0.6	0.5 (IT)	0.7 (Cod)	0.7 (Cod)	0.7 (Cod)	0.01



# Case study: Australian wine

- 59% of Australian wine is exported, shared between 112 countries.
- Australia has a unique Southern Hemisphere climate requiring unique agro-chemicals.
- Acceptance of Codex guidance where a country has not established its own MRLs is the key issue for the industry.





# The importance of Codex

Considering the key point from each of these topics:

- One of the key principles underpinning Australia's MRLs framework is that it is based on internationally accepted guidance.
- Australian wheat exporters face a variety of costs when countries do not consider international guidance.
- The central issue for Australian wine exporters is that countries which do not have their own MRLs set will follow Codex guidance.

It is clear that countries **must** consider Codex guideline and recommendations when setting MRLs.



# Global solutions

- The problems outlined in these case studies are not unique to Australia.
- Cooperation as a global community is key. The aim must be to find a global solution that will enable trade, reduce administrative and financial costs and contribute to food security.

