



New Zealand's Commitment to Harmonisation of International AgriChemical Assessment Processes and Recognition of MRLs.

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand



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HARMONISATION PRINCIPLES

- Members shall play a full part, within the limits of their resources, in the relevant international organizations and their subsidiary bodies,
- Members shall base their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, where they exist, except as....



HARMONISATION INITIATIVES

OECD Pesticide Programme (38 Countries)

- Helps harmonize what information Pesticide companies have to provide to regulators
- NZ is an active member / references guides

<https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/pesticides-biocides/>

- **VICH** (3 Foundation + 14 outreach forum countries)
- A programme aimed at harmonising technical requirements for veterinary product registration.
- NZ is an active observer / references guides

<https://vichsec.org/en/about/what-is-vich.html>



HARMONISATION INITIATIVES

JMPR (Joint WHO/FAO coordinated expert group)

[https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-\(jmpr\)/publications/reports](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-(jmpr)/publications/reports)

JECFA (Joint WHO/FAO coordinated expert group)

[https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)/publications](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa)/publications)

- NZ continues to provide experts for both the assessment of pesticides and Veterinary drugs, and importantly the establishment of harmonised risk assessment policy
- NZ bases much of its assessment policy on JMPR and JECFA processes



HARMONISATION INITIATIVES

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

New Zealand

- Actively comments on proposals and participates in meetings
- Actively encourages registrants to send data relevant to NZ's trading interests
- Recognises CCPR MRLs for food imports



HARMONISATION INITIATIVES

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

New Zealand

- Has chaired the development of key standards and actively comments on proposals and participates in meetings
- Actively encourages registrants to send data relevant to NZ's trading interests
- Recognises CCRVDF MRLs for food imports



**HARMONISATION
INITIATIVES**

- **APEC – Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides**
Intended to facilitate a greater degree of clarity and alignment around the application of assessment methodologies involved in considering import MRL requests

<https://www.apec.org/publications/2016/o8/import-mrl-guideline-for-pesticides>

- **ASEAN / Australia / New Zealand FTA**
Import MRL Guideline Project



WALKING THE TALK

- NZ Pesticide and Vet drug registration assessments are based on the harmonised international guidance.
- NZ uses the raw data submitted by registrants, but still cross validates its assessments against international monographs where they exist
- NZ has done a couple of joint assessments with other countries, and is keen to do more



WALKING THE TALK

- NZ sets its own MRLs associated with NZ Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) requirements.
- But NZ Food law automatically defaults to Codex Pesticide and Vet drug MRLs for imports.
- Where no NZ or Codex MRL, can recognise residues up to 100 ppb if safe & legal in the exporting country
- NZ can also promulgate import MRLs



THE CHALLENGE

What can we collectively do to:

- Further harmonise and align national assessment processes internationally
- Recognise that GAP will vary between countries and so will MRLs
- Focus more on mitigating the transboundary transference of risk rather than the enforcement of domestic policy considerations



THE CHALLENGE

There is a pressing need for:

- Increased Regulatory Coherence
- Better coordination of assessment timing (including reassessments)
- Increased recognition of Codex MRLs
- Increased mutual recognition of national MRLs
- Less application of zero tolerances on imports of foods

QUESTIONS

