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Pest Management
Regulatory Agency

Santé Canada
Agence de réglementation
de la lutte antiparasitaire

Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

PMRL2007-09

Sodium Acifluorfen

(publié aussi en français)

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Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), under the authority of the [Pest Control Products Act](#) (PCPA), has concluded that the addition of a new use to the label of Blazer Herbicide, containing technical grade sodium acifluorfen, to control or suppress broadleaf annual and perennial weeds on soybeans grown in Western Canada is acceptable. Blazer Herbicide is currently registered for use on soybeans grown in Eastern Canada. The specific uses that were approved in Canada are detailed on the Blazer Herbicide label (PCPA Registration Number 23315).

The evaluation of this sodium acifluorfen application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and that the human health and environmental risks associated with the proposed new use are acceptable. Details regarding the registration can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available on the [PMRA website](#), under Public Registry, Product Information, Current Applications¹.

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 pose an unacceptable health risk. 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.

Currently, MRLs are legally established under the Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) after consultation through the *Canada Gazette*. Amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA), via [Bill C-28](#), anticipated to come into force in 2007, will allow pesticide MRLs to be legally established under the PCPA without having to adopt MRLs by regulation under the FDA, resulting in a more efficient means of establishing, revising and revoking pesticide MRLs.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for sodium acifluorfen is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps). This action is being taken in advance of Bill C-28 coming into force to allow the MRLs to be legally established as soon as possible after the FDA is amended.

The proposed MRL for sodium acifluorfen in Canada in or on soybeans is as follows:

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Sodium Acifluorfen

Common Chemical Name	Chemical Name of Substance	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Sodium acifluorfen	sodium 5-[2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]-2-nitrobenzoate, including metabolites consisting of the corresponding acid, methyl ester and amino analogues	0.02	Dry soybeans

¹ The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/All tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2005-3600.

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found in [Table II, Division 15](#) of the FDR. Once the amendments to the FDA via Bill C-28 are in force, the list of legally established Canadian MRLs will be available on the PMRA’s [MRL webpage](#), which will be updated to include the MRLs listed in this document.

International Situation and Trade Implications

MRLs may vary from one country to another for a number of reasons, including differences in pesticide use patterns and the locations of the field crop trials used to generate residue chemistry data. Table 2 identifies differences among MRLs in Canada, tolerances in the United States and Codex² MRLs. The proposed MRL for soybeans in Canada differs from the corresponding tolerance in the United States as listed in [40 CFR 180](#) (searchable by pesticide). Currently, there are no Codex MRLs established for sodium acifluorfen ([Codex MRLs](#) searchable by pesticide or commodity).

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRL, American Tolerance and Codex MRL

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)	Codex MRL (ppm)
Dry soybeans	0.02	0.1 ³	No Codex MRLs have been established for sodium acifluorfen.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for sodium acifluorfen within 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see contact information on the cover page of this document). Health Canada will consider all comments received prior to making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for sodium acifluorfen and before posting an Established Maximum Residue Limit document on the PMRA’s website once the amendments to the FDA are in force.

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

³ Tolerance of 0.1 ppm established in 40 CFR 180.383 (sodium salt of acifluorfen) for “Soybean, seed”.