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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

PMRL2009-07

Phenmedipham

(publié aussi en français)

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Under the authority of the [Pest Control Products Act](#), Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that full registration of the end-use product Betamix β EC Herbicide, containing technical grade phenmedipham and desmedipham, for use on sugar beets is acceptable. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the product label of Betamix β EC Herbicide, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 28650.

The evaluation of this phenmedipham application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and that the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses 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 Applications.¹

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 phenmedipham is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps).

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 the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRL for phenmedipham in Canada in or on food is as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Phenmedipham

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Phenmedipham	3-[(methoxycarbonyl)amino]phenyl (3-methylphenyl)carbamate	0.05	Sugar beet roots

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the PMRA's [MRL webpage](#).

¹ The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/New/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2005-3560.

International Situation and Trade Implications

As per Table 2, the proposed MRL in Canada differs from the corresponding tolerance established in the United States (tolerances listed in [40 CFR Part 180](#) by pesticide). Currently, Codex MRLs² have not been established for phenmedipham on any commodity ([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)
Sugar beet roots	0.05	0.1	No MRL established

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for phenmedipham 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 for phenmedipham and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) document on the PMRA website.

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