

CANADA GAZETTE, PART II

FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS - AMENDMENTS

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SCHEDULE NO. 1215 (PRIMISULFURON-METHYL MRLs)

P.C. 2001-156 OF JANUARY 30, 2001

SOR/2001-70 OF JANUARY 30, 2001

Her Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health, pursuant to subsection 30(1)^a of the *Food and Drugs Act*, hereby makes the annexed *Regulations Amending the Food and Drug Regulations (1215 — Primisulfuron-methyl)*.

^a S.C. 1999, c. 33, s. 347

REGULATIONS AMENDING THE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS
(1215 — PRIMISULFURON-METHYL)

AMENDMENT

1. Table II to Division 15 of Part B of the *Food and Drug Regulations*¹ is amended by adding the following after item P.5.1:

I	II	III	IV
Item No.	Common or (Trade Name)	Chemical Name of Substance	Maximum Residue Limit p.p.m. Foods
P.5.1.1	primisulfuron-methyl	2-[4,6-bis(difluoromethoxy)pyrimidin-2-ylcarbamoylsulfamoyl] benzoic acid, methyl ester	0.1 Eggs, meat and meat by-products of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep
			0.02 Corn, milk

COMING INTO FORCE

2. These Regulations come into force on the day on which they are registered.

¹ C.R.C., c. 870

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT
(This statement is not part of the Regulation)

Description

Under authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), of Health Canada, has approved an application for the registration of the pest control product (pesticide) primisulfuron-methyl as a herbicide for the control of quackgrass, redroot pigweed and Lamb's Quarters in corn as a post-emergent treatment. This regulatory amendment will establish Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) under the *Food and Drugs Act* for residues of primisulfuron-methyl resulting from this use in corn, in order to permit the sale of food containing these residues. This amendment will also establish MRLs in eggs; meat and meat by-products of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep; and milk to cover residues in food derived from animals fed with crops treated with primisulfuron-methyl.

Before making a registration decision regarding a new pest control product, the PMRA conducts the appropriate assessment of the risks and value of the product specific to its proposed use. Pest control products will be registered if: the data requirements for assessing value and safety have been adequately addressed; the evaluation indicates that the product has merit and value; and the human health and environmental risks associated with its proposed use are acceptable.

The human health risk assessment includes an assessment of dietary risks posed by expected residues of the pest control product, as determined through extensive toxicological studies. An acceptable daily intake (ADI) and/or acute reference dose (ARD) is calculated by applying a safety factor to a no observable adverse effect level or, in appropriate cases, by applying a risk factor which is calculated based on a linear low-dose extrapolation. The potential daily intake (PDI) is calculated from the amount of residue that remains on each food when the pest control product is used according to the proposed label and the intake of that food from both domestic and imported sources in the diet. PDIs are established for various Canadian subpopulations and age groups, including infants, toddlers, children, adolescents and adults. Provided the PDI does not exceed the ADI or ARD for any subpopulation or age group, and the lifetime risk is acceptable, the expected residue levels are established as MRLs under the *Food and Drugs Act* to prevent the sale of food with higher residue levels. Since, in most cases, the PDI is well below the ADI and lifetime risks are very low when MRLs are originally established, additional MRLs for the pest control product may be added in the future.

After the review of all available data, the PMRA has determined that MRLs for primisulfuron-methyl of 0.1 parts per million (ppm) in eggs; and meat and meat by-products of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep; and 0.02 ppm in corn and milk would not pose an unacceptable health risk to the public. These new MRLs harmonize with those established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Alternatives

Under the *Food and Drugs Act*, the sale of food containing residues of pest control products at a level less than or equal to 0.1 ppm is permitted unless a lower MRL has been established in Table II, Division 15, of the *Food and Drug Regulations*. In the case of primisulfuron-methyl, establishment of MRLs for corn and milk are necessary to support the use of a pest control product which has been shown to be both safe and effective, while at the same time preventing the sale of food with unacceptable residues.

Even though the sale of food containing residues of pest control products at a level greater than 0.1 ppm would already be prohibited by virtue of subsection B.15.002(1) of the *Food and Drug Regulations*, the establishment of an MRL of 0.1 ppm in Table II, Division 15, of the Regulations, for residues of primisulfuron-methyl in eggs; and meat and meat by-products of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep would provide more clarity regarding the applicable MRL and would clearly indicate that the appropriate risk assessment has been completed. This is in keeping with current trends towards increased openness and transparency of regulatory processes and is consistent with current practices of most pesticide regulatory agencies throughout the world.

Benefits and Costs

The use of primisulfuron-methyl on corn will provide joint benefits to consumers and the agricultural industry as a result of improved management of pests. In addition, this regulatory amendment will contribute to a safe, abundant and affordable food supply by allowing the importation and sale of food commodities containing acceptable levels of pesticide residues.

Some costs may be incurred related to the implementation of analytical methods for analysis of primisulfuron-methyl in the foods mentioned above. Resources required are not expected to result in significant costs to the government.

Consultation

Registration decisions, including dietary risk assessments, made by the PMRA are based on internationally recognized risk management

principles, which are largely harmonized among member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Individual safety evaluations conducted by the PMRA include a review of the assessments conducted at the international level as part of the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/World Health Organization Food Standards Programme in support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as well as MRLs adopted by other national health/regulatory agencies.

This schedule of amendment was published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, on July 1, 2000. Interested groups were invited to make representations concerning the proposed amendment. No responses were received.

Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance will be monitored through ongoing domestic and/or import inspection programs conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency when the MRLs for primisulfuron-methyl are adopted.

Contact

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