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Japan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Changes to Novaluron and Clothianidin MRL

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Report Highlights:

On January 11, MHWL announced proposed changes to the MRLs for the pesticides Novaluron and Clothianidin. MHLW will notify these changes to the WTO SPS Committee.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

The Japanese Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare (MHLW) announced in mid-January proposed changes to the MRLs for the insecticides Novaluron and Clothianidin. The period for comments directly to MHLW closed January 25th however MHLW intends to notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which would be the last chance for public comments to be submitted on this subject. Then after the closing of a the comment period in the WTO, a report to the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare will be made based on the conclusions of a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council slated to be held at a later date, and this will constitute the final decision.

If you have comments that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO, please send those as soon as possible to the Agriculture Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, at agtokyo@usda.gov

Summary of announcements:

Agenda 1. Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for the Pesticides Novaluron and Clothianidin in Food

Purpose

This activity is to develop specifications and standards for foods. Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare may establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for agricultural chemicals (pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed unless such food complies with the established standards. On November 29, 2005 the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare issued notifications regarding the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food (Notification Nos. 497, 498, and 499), which became effective on May 29, 2006. Basically chemicals remaining in foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace must meet the residue standards.

Outline of the activity

Novaluron (Insecticide): This chemical is already approved in Japan. MAFF will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. In response to MAFF's action, the MHLW will additionally establish MRLs for some crops and revise some of the MRLs which are specified in the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc (see Attachment 1).

Currently, MRLs for this substance appear in the "provisional MRLs list" in the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc. (Part I "Food," Section A "General Compositional Standards for Food," Item 7) and the "MRLs list" (Item 6 of Section A). By this activity, the MRLs in the "provisional MRLs list" will be deleted and they will be established in the "MRLs list." In addition, some of the MRLs appearing in the "MRLs list" will be modified.

Clothianidin (Insecticide): This chemical is already approved in Japan. MAFF will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. In response to MAFF's action, the MHLW will additionally establish MRLs for some crops and revise some of the MRLs which are specified in the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc (see Attachment 2).

Currently, MRLs for this substance appear in the “provisional MRLs list” in the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc. (Part I “Food,” Section A “General Compositional Standards for Food,” Item 7) and the “MRLs list” (Item 6 of Section A). By this activity, the MRLs in the “provisional MRLs list” will be deleted and they will be established in the “MRLs list.” In addition, some of the MRLs appearing in the “MRLs list” will be modified.

Attachment 1 (next page)

Attachment 1

Novaiuron(Insecticide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.02
Wheat		0.02
Barley		0.02
Rye		0.02
Corn (maize)		0.02
Buckwheat		0.02
Other cereal grains ¹		0.02
Soybeans, dry		0.02
Beans, dry ²		0.02
Peas		0.02
Broad beans		0.02
Peanuts, dry		0.02
Other legumes/pulses ³		0.02
Potato	0.05	0.05
Taro	0.05	0.05
Sweet potato	0.05	0.05
Yam	0.05	0.05
Konjac		0.02
Other potatoes ⁴	0.05	0.05
Sugar beet	0.05	0.02
Sugarcane		0.02
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.02
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)		0.02
Turnip, roots		0.02
Turnip, leaves		0.02
Horseradish		0.02
Watercress		0.02
Chinese cabbage		0.02
Cabbage	1	1
Brussels sprouts		0.02
Kale		0.02
Komatsuna, Japanese mustard spinach		0.02
Kyona		0.02
Qing-geng-cai		0.02
Cauliflower		0.02
Broccoli		0.02
Other cruciferous vegetables ⁵		0.02
Burdock		0.02
Salsify		0.02
Artichoke		0.02

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Chicory		0.02
Endive		0.02
<i>Shungiku</i>		0.02
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.02
Other composite vegetables ⁴		0.02
Onion		0.02
Welsh (including leek)		0.02
Garlic		0.02
<i>Nira</i>		0.02
Asparagus		0.02
Multiplying onion		0.02
Other liliaceous vegetables ⁷		0.02
Carrot		0.02
Parsnip		0.02
Parsley		0.02
Celery		0.02
<i>Ajitsuba</i>		0.02
Other umbelliferous vegetables ⁶		0.02
Tomato	1	1
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.02
Egg plant	0.5	0.5
Other solanaceous vegetables ³		0.02
Cucumber (including gherkin)		0.02
Pumpkin (including squash)		0.02
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.02
Water melon		0.02
Melons		0.02
<i>Matsuzuri</i> melon		0.02
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables ¹²	0.05	0.05
Spinach		0.02
Bamboo shoots		0.02
Okra		0.02
Ginger	0.05	0.05
Peas, immature (with pods)		0.02
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.02
Green soybeans		0.02
Button mushroom		0.02
<i>Shitake</i> mushroom		0.02
Other mushrooms ¹⁴		0.02
Other vegetables ¹³	0.05	0.05
<i>Unshu</i> orange, pulp		0.02
<i>Citrus natsudaidai</i> , whole		0.02

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Lemon		0.02
Orange (including navel orange)		0.02
Grapefruit		0.02
Lime		0.02
Other citrus fruits ¹³		0.02
Apple	3	1
Japanese pear	3	1
Pear	3	1
Quince	3	1
Loquat	3	1
Peach		0.02
Nectarine		0.02
Apricot		0.02
Japanese plum (including prune)		0.02
Mume plum		0.02
Cherry		0.02
Strawberry		0.02
Raspberry		0.02
Blackberry		0.02
Blueberry		0.02
Cranberry		0.02
Huckleberry		0.02
Other berries ¹⁴		0.02
Grape		0.02
Japanese persimmon		0.02
Banana		0.02
Kiwifruit		0.02
Papaya		0.02
Avocado		0.02
Pineapple		0.02
Guava		0.02
Mango		0.02
Passion fruit		0.02
Date		0.02
Other fruits ¹⁵		0.02
Sunflower seeds		0.02
Sesame seeds		0.02
Safflower seeds		0.02
Cotton seeds	1	1
Rapeseeds		0.02
Other oil seeds ¹⁶		0.02
Ginkgo nut		0.02

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Chestnut		<u>0.02</u>
Pecan		<u>0.02</u>
Almond		<u>0.02</u>
Walnut		<u>0.02</u>
Other nuts ¹⁷		<u>0.02</u>
Tea		<u>0.02</u>
Coffee beans		<u>0.02</u>
Cacao beans		<u>0.02</u>
Hop		<u>0.02</u>
Other spices ¹⁸	0.05	0.05
Other herbs ¹⁹	0.05	0.05
Cattle, muscle	0.7	0.6
Pig, muscle	0.7	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals ²⁰ , muscle	0.7	0.6
Cattle, fat	10	10
Pig, fat	10	0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	10	10
Cattle, liver	0.7	1
Pig, liver	0.7	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	0.7	1
Cattle, kidney	0.7	1
Pig, kidney	0.7	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	0.7	1
Cattle, edible offal ²¹	0.7	0.6
Pig, edible offal	0.7	0.01
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	0.7	0.6
Milk	0.4	1
Chicken, muscle	0.01	0.03
Other poultry ²² , muscle	0.01	0.03
Chicken, fat	0.01	0.4
Other poultry, fat	0.01	0.4
Chicken, liver	0.01	0.04
Other poultry, liver	0.01	0.04
Chicken, kidney	0.01	0.04
Other poultry, kidney	0.01	0.04
Chicken, edible offal	0.01	0.04
Other poultry, edible offal	0.01	0.04
Chicken, eggs	0.01	0.05
Other poultry, eggs	0.01	0.05

Attachment 2

Clothianidine (Insecticide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Rice (brown rice)	0.7	0.5
Wheat	0.02	0.02
Barley	0.02	0.02
Rye	0.02	0.02
Corn (maize)	0.02	0.01
Buckwheat	0.02	0.02
Other cereal grains ¹	0.02	0.02
Soybeans, dry	0.1	0.1
Beans, dry ²	0.3	0.3
Peas	0.3	0.02
Broad beans	0.3	0.02
Peanuts, dry	0.02	0.02
Other legumes/pulses ³	0.3	0.02
Potato	0.25	0.25
Taro	0.05	0.05
Sweet potato	0.1	0.1
Yam	0.02	0.02
Konjac	0.02	0.02
Other potatoes ⁴	0.02	0.02
Sugar beet	0.1	0.1
Sugarcane	0.02	0.02
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)	0.1	0.1
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)	5	5
Turnip, roots	0.02	0.02
Turnip, leaves	0.02	0.02
Horseradish	0.02	0.02
Watercress	0.02	0.02
Chinese cabbage	0.1	0.1
Cabbage	0.7	0.7
Brussels sprouts	0.02	0.02
Kale	0.02	0.02
Komatsuna, Japanese mustard spinach	0.5	0.5
Kyona	5	5
Qing-geng-cai	5	5
Cauliflower	0.02	0.02
Broccoli	1	0.3
Other cruciferous vegetables ⁵	5	5
Burdock	0.02	0.02
Salsify	0.02	0.02
Artichoke	2	2

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Chicory	2	2
Endive	2	2
<i>Shungiku</i>	0.02	0.02
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	20	3
Other composite vegetables ⁶	2	2
Onion	0.02	0.02
Welsh (including leek)	0.7	0.7
Garlic	0.02	0.02
<i>Nira</i>	15	2
Asparagus	0.7	0.02
Multiplying onion	2	2
Other liliaceous vegetables ⁷	2	2
Carrot	0.02	0.02
Parsnip	0.02	0.02
Parsley	2	2
Celery	5	5
<i>Mitsuba</i>	0.02	0.02
Other umbelliferous vegetables ⁸	2	2
Tomato	3	2
Pimiento (sweet pepper)	3	3
Egg plant	1	1
Other solanaceous vegetables ⁹	1	1
Cucumber (including gherkin)	2	2
Pumpkin (including squash)	0.4	0.4
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)	0.02	0.02
Water melon	0.2	0.2
Melons	0.3	0.3
<i>Makurauri</i> melon	0.02	0.02
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables ¹⁰	2	2
Spinach	0.02	0.02
Bamboo shoots	2	2
Okra	1	1
Ginger	0.02	0.02
Peas, immature (with pods)	0.02	0.02
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)	0.5	0.5
Green soybeans	2	0.2
Button mushroom	0.02	0.02
<i>Shitake</i> mushroom	0.02	0.02
Other mushrooms ¹¹	0.02	0.02
Other vegetables ¹²	2	2
<i>Unshu</i> orange, pulp	1	1
<i>Citrus natsudaidai</i> , whole	2	2

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Lemon	2	2
Orange (including navel orange)	2	2
Grapefruit	2	2
Lime	2	2
Other citrus fruits ¹³	2	2
Apple	1	1
Japanese pear	1	1
Pear	1	1
Quince	1	1
Loquat	1	1
Peach	0.7	0.7
Nectarine	2	0.2
Apricot	3	0.2
Japanese plum (including prune)	0.3	5
Mume plum	3	3
Cherry	5	5
Strawberry	0.7	0.05
Raspberry	0.02	0.02
Blackberry	0.02	0.02
Blueberry	0.1	0.1
Cranberry	0.02	0.02
Huckleberry	0.1	0.1
Other berries ¹⁴	0.1	0.1
Grape	5	5
Japanese persimmon	0.5	0.5
Banana	1	1
Kiwifruit	0.02	0.02
Papaya	1	1
Avocado	0.02	0.02
Pineapple	0.02	0.02
Guava	1	1
Mango	1	1
Passion fruit	1	1
Date	0.02	0.02
Other fruits ¹⁵	4	4
Sunflower seeds	0.02	0.02
Sesame seeds	0.02	0.02
Safflower seeds	0.02	0.02
Cotton seeds	0.02	0.02
Rapeseeds	0.01	0.01
Other oil seeds ¹⁶	0.02	0.02
Ginkgo nut	0.02	0.02

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Chestnut	0.02	0.02
Pecan	0.02	0.02
Almond	0.02	0.02
Walnut	0.02	0.02
Other nuts ¹⁷	0.02	0.02
Tea	50	50
Coffee beans	0.04	0.04
Cacao beans	0.02	0.02
Hop	0.02	0.02
<i>Unshu</i> orange, peel	10	4
Other spices ¹⁸ (except <i>Unshu</i> orange, peel)	4	4
Spearmint	0.3	0.3
Peppermint	0.3	0.3
Other herbs ¹⁹ (except spearmint and peppermint)	5	5
Cattle, muscle	0.02	0.02
Pig, muscle	0.02	0.02
Sheep, muscle	0.02	0.02
Horse, muscle	0.02	0.02
Goat, muscle	0.02	0.02
Other terrestrial mammals ²⁰ , muscle	0.02	0.01
Cattle, fat	0.02	0.02
Pig, fat	0.02	0.02
Sheep, fat	0.02	0.02
Horse, fat	0.02	0.02
Goat, fat	0.02	0.02
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	0.02	0.02
Cattle, liver	0.02	0.02
Pig, liver	0.02	0.02
Sheep, liver	0.02	0.02
Horse, liver	0.02	0.02
Goat, liver	0.02	0.02
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	0.02	0.02
Cattle, kidney	0.02	0.02
Pig, kidney	0.02	0.02
Sheep, kidney	0.02	0.02
Horse, kidney	0.02	0.02
Goat, kidney	0.02	0.02
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	0.02	0.02
Cattle, edible offal ²¹	0.02	0.02
Pig, edible offal	0.02	0.02
Sheep, edible offal	0.02	0.02
Horse, edible offal	0.02	0.02

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Goat, edible offal	0.02	0.02
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	0.02	0.02
Milk	0.01	0.01
Chicken, muscle	0.02	0.02
Other poultry ²² , muscle	0.02	0.02
Chicken, fat	0.02	0.02
Other poultry, fat	0.02	0.02
Chicken, liver	0.02	0.02
Other poultry, liver	0.02	0.02
Chicken, kidney	0.02	0.02
Other poultry, kidney	0.02	0.02
Chicken, edible offal	0.02	0.02
Other poultry, edible offal	0.02	0.02
Chicken, eggs	0.02	0.02
Other poultry, eggs	0.02	0.02

Notes:

For commodities for which revised MRLs are not given, the uniform limit (0.01 ppm) will be applied. Limits given in the column of “MRL (draft)” include those that remain the same as the current MRLs. The underlined MRLs appearing in the current MRL list of novaluron are set as 0.02 ppm, instead of the uniform limit (0.01 ppm), because the determination limit of the applicable analytical method was originally 0.02 ppm. Because the improved method is able to analyze novaluron to the level of 0.01 ppm, these MRLs will be set as uniform limit (0.01 ppm).

The MRLs for clothianidin are expressed as the sum of clothianidin itself and the metabolite clothianidin, which is derived from the application of thiamethoxam.

1. “Other cereal grains” refers to all cereal grains, except rice (brown rice), wheat, barley, rye, corn (maize) and buckwheat.
2. “Beans (dry)” includes butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pedia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans.
3. “Other legumes/pulses” refers to all legumes/pulses, except soybeans (dry), beans (dry)*, peas, broad beans, peanuts (dry) and spices.
4. “Other potatoes” refers to all potatoes, except potato, taro, sweet potato, yam and konjac.

5. “Other cruciferous vegetables” refers to all cruciferous vegetables, except Japanese radish roots and leaves (including radish), turnip roots and leaves, horseradish, watercress, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, brussels sprouts, kele, *komatsuna* (Japanese mustard spinach), *kyona*, qing-geng-cai, cauliflower, broccoli and herbs.
6. “Other composite vegetables” refers to all composite vegetables, except burdock, salsify, artichoke, chicory, endive, *shungiku*, lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce) and herbs.
7. “Other liliaceous vegetables” refers to all liliaceous vegetables, except onion, welsh (including leek), garlic, *nira*, asparagus, multiplying onion and herbs.
8. “Other umbelliferous vegetables” refers to all umbelliferous vegetables, except carrot, parsnip, parsley, *mitsuba*, spices and herbs.
9. “Other solanceous vegetables” refers to all solanceous vegetables except tomato, pimiento (sweet pepper) and egg plant.
10. “Other cucurbitaceous vegetables” refers to all cucurbitaceous vegetables, except cucumber (including gherkin), pumpkin (including squash), oriental pickling melon (vegetable), watermelon, melons and *makuwauri* melon.
11. “Other mushrooms” refers to all mushrooms, except button mushroom and *shiitake* mushroom.
12. “Other vegetables” refers to all vegetables, except potatoes, sugar beet, sugarcane, cruciferous vegetables, composite vegetables, liliaceous vegetables, umbelliferous vegetables, cucurbitaceous vegetables, spinach, bamboo shoots, okra, ginger, peas (with pods, immature), kidney beans (with pods, immature), green soybeans, mushrooms, spices and herbs.
13. “Other citrus fruits” refers to all citrus fruits, except *unshu* orange (pulp), citrus *natsudaikai* (pulp), citrus *natsudaikai* (peels), citrus *natsudaikai* (whole), lemon, orange (including navel orange), grapefruit, lime and spices.
14. “Other berries” refers to all berries, except strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cranberry and huckleberry.
15. “Other fruits” refers to all fruits, except citrus fruits, apple, Japanese pear, pear, quince, loquat, peach, nectarine, apricot, Japanese plum (including prune), mume plum, cherry, berries, grape, Japanese persimmon, banana, kiwifruit, papaya, avocado, pineapple, guava, mango, passion fruit, date and spices.
16. “Other oil seeds” refers to all oil seeds, except sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, safflower seeds, cotton seeds, rapeseeds and spices.
17. “Other nuts” refers to all nuts, except ginkgo nut, chestnut, pecan, almond and walnut.

18. “Other spices” refers to all spices, except horseradish, *wasabi* (Japanese horseradish) rhizomes, garlic, peppers chili, paprika, ginger, lemon peels, orange peels (including navel orange), *yuzu* (Chinese citron) peels and sesame seeds.
19. “Other herbs” refers to all herbs, except watercress, *nira*, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.
20. “Other terrestrial mammals” refer to all other terrestrial mammals, except cattle and pig.
21. “Edible offal” refers to all edible offal, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney.
22. “Other poultry” refers to all other poultry, except chicken.