

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Stomping Out the Bugs - The FSSAI Operationalizes Pesticide MRLs for use in India's Tea Plantations

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On April 27, 2023, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified on its website the Direction SS-T007/1/2023-Standard-FSSAI. The FSSAI direction informs of the immediate operationalization of revised maximum residue limits (MRLs) for five pesticides widely used for crop protection in India's tea plantations namely, emamectin benzoate, fenpyroximate, hexaconazole, propiconazole, and quinalphos.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India’s (FSSAI) website <http://www.fssai.gov.in>. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Indian officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge. Indian host sites will geo-block site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION

On April 27, 2023, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified on its website the **Direction No. SS-T007/1/2023-Standard-FSSAI** (see, Appendix I).

The FSSAI direction informs of the immediate operationalization of revised maximum residue limits (MRLs) for five pesticides widely used for crop protection in India’s tea plantations namely, emamectin benzoate, fenpyroximate, hexaconazole, propiconazole, and quinalphos. The MRLs for these five pesticides were revised upwards and are notified in the [draft Food Safety and Standards \(Contaminants, Toxins and Residues\) Amendment Regulations \(2020\)](#). The FSSAI foresees that the finalization of this amendment may take additional time.

The revised MRLs for five pesticides used in India’s tea plantations are:

S. No.	Name of Pesticide	Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) mg/kg
1	Emamectin Benzoate	0.06
2	Fenpyroximate	6.0
3	Hexaconazole	5.0
4	Propiconazole	6.0
5	Quinalphos	0.7

The full text of the **Direction No. SS-T007/1/2023-Standard-FSSAI** is located on the FSSAI website at:

https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2023/04/644b6627e7923Direction_Fixation%20of%20MRL%20of%20Pesticides%20in%20Tea.pdf

**APPENDIX I: FSSAI DIRECTION RELATING TO OPERATIONALIZATION OF
MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR PESTICIDES USED IN TEA PLANTATIONS**

F. No. SS-T007/1/2023-Standard-FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi- 110002

Dated, the 27th April, 2023


Subject: Direction under Section 16(5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regarding operationalization of MRL of Pesticides used in Tea

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, FSSAI has notified the draft FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2020 on 20.08.2020 relating to the revision of MRL of pesticides used in Tea alongwith other crops and commodities.

2. The above mentioned draft amendment regulations are in the process of Inter-ministerial consultations, thus, the finalization of these amendment regulations is likely to take some time. Meanwhile, based on representation received and considering the fact that five pesticides namely, Emamectin Benzoate, Fenpyroximate, Hexaconazole, Propiconazole and Quinalphos are widely used for crop protection in Tea plantations and that the MRL of these pesticides have been revised upwards on the basis of data through draft notification dated 20.08.2020, it has been decided to operationalize the MRL of below mentioned five pesticides for Tea, with immediate effect:

S. No.	Name of Pesticide	Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) mg/kg
1	Emamectin Benzoate	0.06
2	Fenpyroximate	6.0
3	Hexaconazole	5.0
4	Propiconazole	6.0
5	Quinalphos	0.7

3. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority in exercise of the powers vested under Section 18(2)(d) read with 16(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.


(Dr. Amit Sharma)
Director (Regulation)

27/04-23

Attachments:

No Attachments.