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## **Vietnam**

**Post:** Hanoi

### **MOH revises MRLs for Pesticides in Foods**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides an unofficial translation of Circular 50/2016/TT-MOH dated December 30, 2016 of the Ministry of Health (MOH) providing for the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides in food. This Circular replaces Section 8 "Maximum level of pesticide residues in food" promulgated in conjunction with MOH's Decision 46/2007/QD-BYT dated December 19, 2007 on providing for the maximum level of biological and chemical pollution in food. This Circular shall take effect from July 1, 2017.

**Summary:**

On December 30, 2016, MOH issued Circular 50/2016/TT-BYT providing MRLs for pesticides in food. This Circular shall take effect from July 1, 2017 and will replace current regulations on MRLs for pesticides in food which were stipulated in Section 8 of MOH's Decision 46/2007/QD-BYT dated December 19, 2007.

The draft of this Circular was previously notified as G/SPS/N/VNM55 to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on May 15, 2014. The U.S. Government provided comments on July 14, 2014, but did not receive any official written response from Vietnam.

Accordingly, MRLs for two hundreds and five (205) compounds are updated and supplemented, based on Codex MRLs for pesticides. Vietnam also adopted MRLs for a number of fruits and vegetables in harmonization with MRLs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which it is a member. MRLs for certain compounds (e.g., endosulfan, endrin, lindane), which are currently banned for use in Vietnam by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Circular 3/2016/TT-BNNPTNT), are still maintained in accordance with Codex standards.

The full text of the Circular is available at: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Thong-tu-50-2016-TT-BYT-gioi-han-toi-da-du-luong-thuoc-bao-ve-thuc-vat-trong-thuc-pham-337490.aspx>

Below is an unofficial translation of Circular 50/2016/TT-BYT. (For a translation of Appendix – MRLs for pesticides in food, please contact FAS Hanoi: [aghanoi@fas.usda.gov](mailto:aghanoi@fas.usda.gov)).

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH      SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**  
**Independence - Freedom - Happiness**

No: 50/2016/TT-BYT

*Hanoi, December 30, 2016*

**CIRCULAR**  
**providing for the maximum levels of residues for pesticides in food**

*Pursuant to the Law on Food Safety dated June 17, 2010;*

*Pursuant to Decree No. 38/2012/ND-CP dated April 25, 2012 of the Government detailing provisions for the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Food Safety;*

*Pursuant to Decree No. 63/2012/ND-CP dated August 31, 2012 of the Government providing for the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Ministry of Health;*

*At the proposal of the Director General of the Vietnam Food Administration;*

*Minister of Health promulgates Circular providing for the maximum level of residues for pesticides in food:*

**Article 1. Scope of governing and applicability**

1. This Circular provides for the maximum level of residues for pesticides in domestically produced and imported food.
2. This Circular applies to organizations and individuals producing, trading food and related organizations and individuals.

### **Article 2. Interpretation of terms and abbreviations**

In this Circular, the following terms and abbreviations shall be construed, as follows

1. Maximum Residue Level (abbreviated as MRL) is the maximum amount of a pesticide residue in food (unit: mg/kg).
2. Pesticide residues are residues in foods resulting from the use of pesticides.

Pesticide residues may originate from unknown-sources, inevitably (e.g., from environment) or the use of chemicals.

Pesticide residues include derivatives of pesticides such as metabolites, degradation products and impurities that are considered to be toxic.

3. Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) is the maximum amount of a pesticide residue or a contaminant in food arising from environmental sources (including the previous use of agricultural chemicals), other than residues resulting from the use of pesticides or contaminants directly or indirectly for food (unit: mg/kg).
4. Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) means the amount of a chemical is introduced into the body daily without causing harmful effect(s) to human health (unit: mg/kg body weight).
5. Pesticide code (referred as Code) is the code of a pesticide in accordance with the Codex Alimentarius Committee (CODEX).

### **Article 3. Promulgation of Maximum Residue Levels in food**

Maximum Residue Levels for pesticides in food are stipulated in Appendix promulgated in conjunction with this Circular.

### **Article 4. Implementation provisions**

1. This Circular shall take effect from July 1, 2017.

Section 8 "Maximum level of pesticide residues in food" promulgated in conjunction with Decision No. 46/2007/QĐ-BYT dated December 19, 2007 of the Minister of Health on "providing for the maximum level of biological and chemical pollution in food" shall be provoked since the date on which this Circular enters into force.

2. The Vietnam Food Administration shall be responsible for presiding over and coordinating with related functional agencies to organize the implementation of this Circular.

In the course of implementation, if any problem arises, agencies, organizations and individuals shall report to the Ministry of Health (Vietnam Food Administration) for consideration and resolution./.

#### ***Recipients:***

- Office of Government (Official Gazette, Vietnam Government

**ON BEHALF OF  
MINISTER**

- Portal);
- Ministry of Justice (Document Examination Department);
  - Ministries, ministerial-level agencies, agencies under the Government;
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade;
  - Minister of Health (for reporting);
  - People's Committees of centrally-run provinces and cities;
  - Departments of Health of centrally-run provinces and cities;
  - Web portal of the Ministry of Health;
  - Kept as archives: MOH's Office, Legal Department, VFA.

**DEPUTY MINISTER**

**Nguyen Thanh Long**