

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Japan proposes new MRLs for Bensulfuron-methyl Cyclanilide and Spinosad

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On October 31, 2011, the Government of Japan announced proposed changes to the MRLs for bensulfuron-methyl, cyclanilide and spinosad. The domestic comment period for these proposed new MRLs will close on November 14, 2011. After that, MHLW will notify these changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another opportunity to submit public comments on this subject.

General Information:

On October 14, 2011, the Government of Japan held a meeting to brief foreign missions in Tokyo on proposed changes to the MRLs for bensulfuron-methyl, cyclanilide and spinosad. The domestic period for sending comments on these changes ends Monday, November 14, 2011. If you have comments it is best to send them directly to MHLW as soon as possible. However, MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another chance to submit comments on this subject. Once notified to the WTO, the actual WTO-SPS notification can be found at the site below.

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/work_and_doc_e.htm

After the WTO comment period closes, a final report will be made based on the conclusions of a session held by the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council scheduled to be held at a later date. This will constitute the final decision.

The comments to the GOJ can be submitted either in Japanese or English. The GOJ point of contact for the comment is indicated below.

If you have comments, please send them directly to the Japanese Government at:

Hiroko Fukushima, Ms.
Standards and Evaluation Division,
Department of Food Safety,
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, 100-8916
Tel: 03-5253-1111, ext. 2487
Fax: 03-3501-4868
Email; hiroko-fukushima@mhlw.go.jp

Please also consider copying the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo at agtokyo@usda.gov on your comments in order for them to be considered as part of the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO.

Agenda - Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals in Food

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) is going to develop compositional specifications for food.

Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare is authorized to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as just “agricultural chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless it complies with the established standards.

On May 29, 2006, the MHLW introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food.*

Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system.

This time the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some food commodities as well as has comprehensively reviewed the current MRLs. This activity is targeted to three pesticides (Bensulfuron-methyl, Cyclanilide, and Spinosad). Details are given below.

Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Law. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese marketplace if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) specified under the Law.

Outline of revision

Bensulfuron-methyl (herbicide): Permitted for use in Japan.

The MHLW has reviewed the MRLs that had been established at the introduction of the positive list system.

Cyclanilide (plant growth regulator): Not permitted for use in Japan.

The MHLW has reviewed the MRLs that had been established at the introduction of the positive list system.

Spinosad (insecticide): Permitted for use in Japan.

This time Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has decided to expand the scope of target crops on which the use of this compound is permitted in Japan. In response to the MAFF’s action, the MHLW has reviewed and modified the current MRL for some crops. Also the MHLW has set import tolerances (draft) for some crops in response to the request from a foreign country based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan (Shokuan No. 0205001, 5 February 2004). In addition, the MHLW has reviewed other MRLs that had been established at the introduction of the positive list system.

Bensulfuron-methyl

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)	0.1	0.1
Wheat		0.02
Barley		0.02
Rye		0.02
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)		0.02
Buckwheat		0.02
Other cereal grains		0.02
Soybeans, dry		0.02
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pedia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)		0.02

Peas		0.02
Broad beans		0.02
Peanuts, dry		0.02
Other legumes/pulses		0.02
Potato		0.02
Taro		0.02
Sweet potato		0.02
Yam		0.02
Konjac		0.02
Other potatoes		0.02
Sugar beet		0.02
Sugarcane		0.02
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.02
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)		0.02
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)		0.02
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)		0.02
Horseradish		0.02
Watercress		0.02
Chinese cabbage		0.02
Cabbage		0.02
Brussels sprouts		0.02
Kale		0.02
<i>Komatsuna</i> (Japanese mustard spinach)		0.02
<i>Kyona</i>		0.02
Qing-geng-cai		0.02
Cauliflower		0.02
Broccoli		0.02
Other cruciferous vegetables		0.02
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Burdock		0.02
Salsify		0.02
Artichoke		0.02
Chicory		0.02
Endive		0.02
<i>Shungiku</i>		0.02
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.02
Other composite vegetables		0.02
Onion		0.02
Welsh (including leek)		0.02
Garlic		0.02
<i>Nira</i>		0.02
Asparagus		0.02

Multiplying onion (including shallot)		0.02
Other liliaceous vegetables		0.02
Carrot		0.02
Parsnip		0.02
Parsley		0.02
Celery		0.02
<i>Mitsuba</i>		0.02
Other umbelliferous vegetables		0.02
Tomato		0.02
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.02
Egg plant		0.02
Other solanaceous vegetables		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>Makuwauri</i> melon		0.02
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables		0.02
Spinach		0.02
Bamboo shoots		0.02
Okra		0.02
Ginger		0.02
Peas, immature (with pods)		0.02
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.02
Green soybeans		0.02
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Button mushroom		0.02
<i>Shiitake</i> mushroom		0.02
Other mushrooms		0.02
Other vegetables		0.02
<i>Unshu</i> orange, pulp		0.02
Citrus <i>natsudaidai</i> , whole		0.02
Lemon		0.02
Orange (including navel orange)		0.02
Grapefruit		0.02
Lime		0.02
Other citrus fruits		0.02
Apple		0.02
Japanese pear		0.02
Pear		0.02
Quince		0.02

Loquat		0.02
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		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
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Commodity		
Other fruits		0.02
Sunflower seeds		0.02
Sesame seeds		0.02
Safflower seeds		0.02
Cotton seeds		0.02
Rapeseeds		0.02
Other oil seeds		0.02
Ginkgo nut		0.02
Chestnut		0.02
Pecan		0.02
Almond		0.02
Walnut		0.02
Other nuts		0.02
Tea		0.02
Coffee beans		0.02
Cacao beans		0.02

Hop		0.02
Other spices		0.02
Other herbs		0.02
Crustaceans		0.05

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the "Commodity" column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

Cyclanilide

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Cotton seeds	0.6	0.4
Cattle, muscle	0.05	0.04
Pig, muscle	0.05	0.04
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	0.05	0.1
Cattle, fat	0.1	0.1
Pig, fat	0.1	0.1
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	0.1	0.1
Cattle, liver	2	1
Pig, liver	2	1
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	2	1
Cattle, kidney	2	2
Pig, kidney	2	2
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	2	2
Cattle, edible offal ("Edible offal" refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney)	2	1
Pig, edible offal	2	1
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	2	1
Milk	0.05	0.05
Chicken, muscle		0.01
Other poultry animals, muscle		0.01
Chicken, fat		0.01
Other poultry animals, fat		0.01
Chicken, liver		0.01
Other poultry animals, liver		0.01
Chicken, kidney		0.01
Other poultry animals, kidney		0.01
Chicken, edible offal		0.01
Other poultry animals, edible offal		0.01
Chicken, eggs		0.01
Other poultry, eggs		0.01

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the "Commodity" column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

Spinosad

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)	0.1	1
Wheat	2	0.02
Barley	2	0.02
Rye	1	0.02
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)	2	0.02
Buckwheat	1	0.02
Other cereal grains	1	1
Soybeans, dry	0.02	0.02
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, peggia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)	0.02	0.02
Peas	0.02	0.02
Broad beans	0.02	0.02
Peanuts, dry	0.02	0.02
Other legumes/pulses	0.02	0.02
Potato	0.02	0.02
Taro	0.02	0.02
Sweet potato	0.02	0.02
Yam	0.02	0.02
Konjac		0.02
Other potatoes	0.02	0.02
Sugar beet	0.06	0.06
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)	0.2	0.2
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)	1	1
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)	0.1	0.2
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)	3	10
Horseradish	0.1	0.2
Watercress	10	8
Chinese cabbage	1	8
Cabbage	2	2
Brussels sprouts	2	1
Kale	10	10
<i>Komatsuna</i> (Japanese mustard spinach)	10	5
<i>Kyona</i>	5	5
Qing-geng-cai	2	2
Cauliflower	2	2
Broccoli	2	2

Other cruciferous vegetables	2	2
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Burdock	0.1	0.2
Salsify	0.1	0.2
Artichoke	0.3	5
Chicory	10	8
Endive	10	8
<i>Shungiku</i>	10	10
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)	10	8
Other composite vegetables	10	8
Onion	0.1	0.1
Welsh (including leek)	2	5
<i>Nira</i>	5	5
Asparagus	0.5	5
Multiplying onion (including shallot)	1	5
Other liliaceous vegetables	0.3	5
Carrot	0.2	0.2
Parsnip	0.1	0.2
Parsley	8	8
Celery	8	8
<i>Mitsuba</i>	5	5
Other umbelliferous vegetables	5	5
Tomato	1	0.5
Pimiento (sweet pepper)	2	2
Egg plant	2	2
Other solanaceous vegetables	10	0.4
Cucumber (including gherkin)	0.5	0.5
Pumpkin (including squash)	0.3	0.3
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)	0.3	0.3
Water melon	0.3	0.3
Melons	0.3	0.3
<i>Makuwauri</i> melon	0.3	0.3
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables	10	0.3
Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Spinach	10	8
Bamboo shoots		0.2
Okra		2
Ginger	0.02	0.02
Peas, immature (with pods)	0.3	0.3
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)	0.3	0.3
Green soybeans	0.3	0.3
Other vegetables	10	10

Unshu orange, pulp	0.1	0.3
Citrus <i>natsudaidai</i> , whole	0.3	0.3
Lemon	0.3	0.3
Orange (including navel orange)	0.3	0.3
Grapefruit	0.3	0.3
Lime	0.3	0.3
Other citrus fruits	0.3	0.3
Apple	0.5	0.5
Japanese pear	0.5	0.5
Pear	0.5	0.5
Quince	0.5	0.5
Loquat		0.2
Peach	0.2	0.2
Nectarine	0.5	0.2
Apricot	0.2	0.2
Japanese plum (including prune)	0.2	0.2
Mume plum	0.2	0.2
Cherry	0.2	0.2
Strawberry	1	1
Raspberry	0.7	1
Blackberry	0.7	1
Blueberry	0.3	1
Cranberry		1
Huckleberry	0.3	1
Other berries	0.7	1
Grape	0.5	0.5
Japanese persimmon		0.5
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Banana	0.3	0.5
Kiwifruit		0.2
Papaya	0.3	0.3
Avocado	0.3	0.3
Pineapple	0.02	0.5
Guava	0.3	0.3
Mango	0.3	0.3
Passion fruit	0.3	0.3
Date	0.1	1
Other fruits	0.3	0.3
Sunflower seeds		0.01
Safflower seeds		0.01
Cotton seeds	0.02	0.02
Other oil seeds		5
Ginkgo nut		0.01

Chestnut	0.1	0.02
Pecan	0.1	0.02
Almond	0.02	0.02
Walnut	0.1	0.02
Other nuts	0.02	0.02
Tea	2	2
Other spices	10	10
Other herbs	10	10
Cattle, muscle	2	2
Pig, muscle	2	2
Other terrestrial mammals, muscle	2	0.8
Cattle, fat	10	3
Pig, fat	10	2
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	10	2
Cattle, liver	5	2
Pig, liver	5	0.5
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	5	0.5
Cattle, kidney	2	1
Pig, kidney	2	0.5
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	2	0.5
Cattle, edible offal ("Edible offal" refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney)	5	0.5
Pig, edible offal	5	0.5
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	5	0.5
	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Milk	2	1
Chicken, muscle	0.1	0.02
Other poultry animals, muscle	0.1	0.02
Chicken, fat	1	0.4
Other poultry animals, fat	1	0.4
Chicken, liver	0.2	0.04
Other poultry animals, liver	0.1	0.04
Chicken, kidney	0.2	0.04
Other poultry animals, kidney	0.1	0.04
Chicken, edible offal	0.2	0.04
Other poultry animals, edible offal	0.1	0.04
Chicken, eggs	0.2	0.05
Other poultry, eggs	0.1	0.05
Wheat bran	2	2
Raisin	1	1
Cottonseed oil ¹	0.01	0.01
Cottonseed oil ²	0.01	0.01

The MRLs are established as the sum of Spinosyn A and Spinosyn D.

Note

1. Refined cottonseed oil and cottonseed salad oil that are specified in the Japan Agricultural Standards and other edible cottonseed oils meeting standards equal to or greater than the JAS.
2. Cottonseed oils other than 1.

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the "Commodity" column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

Notes:

"Other cereal grains" refers to all cereal grains, except rice (brown rice), wheat, barley, rye, corn (maize), and buckwheat.

"Other legumes/pulses" refers to all legumes/pulses, except soybeans (dry), beans (dry), peas, broad beans, peanuts (dry), and spices.

"Other potatoes" refers to all potatoes, except potato, taro, sweet potato, yam, and konjac.

"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, kale, *komatsuna* (Japanese mustard spinach), *kyona*, qing-geng-cai, cauliflower, broccoli, and herbs.

"Other composite vegetables" refers to all composite vegetables, except burdock, salsify, artichoke, chicory, endive, *shungiku*, lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce), and herbs.

"Other liliaceous vegetables" refers to all liliaceous vegetables, except onion, welsh (including leek), garlic, *nira*, asparagus, multiplying onion, and herbs.

"Other umbelliferous vegetables" refers to all umbelliferous vegetables, except carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, *mitsuba*, spices, and herbs.

"Other solanaceous vegetables" refers to all solanaceous vegetables, except tomato, pimiento (sweet pepper), and egg plant.

"Other cucurbitaceous vegetables" refers to all cucurbitaceous vegetables, except cucumber (including gherkin), pumpkin (including squash), oriental pickling melon (vegetable), watermelon, melons, and *makuwauri* melon.

"Other mushrooms" refers to all mushrooms, except button mushroom, and *shiitake* mushroom.

"Other vegetables" refers to all vegetables, except potatoes, sugar beet, sugarcane, cruciferous vegetables, composite vegetables, liliaceous vegetables, umbelliferous vegetables, solanaceous vegetables, cucurbitaceous vegetables, spinach, bamboo shoots, okra, ginger, peas (with pods, immature), kidney beans (with pods, immature), green

soybeans, mushrooms, spices, and herbs.

“Other citrus fruits” refers to all citrus fruits, except *unshu* orange (pulp), citrus *natsudaidai* (pulp), citrus *natsudaidai* (peel), citrus *natsudaidai* (whole), lemon, orange (including navel orange), grapefruit, lime, and spices.

“Other berries” refers to all berries, except strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, and huckleberry.

“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.

“Other oil seeds” refers to all oil seeds, except sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, safflower seeds, cotton seeds, rapeseeds and spices.

“Other nuts” refers to all nuts, except ginkgo nut, chestnut, pecan, almond and walnut.

“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.

“Other herbs” refers to all herbs, except watercress, *nira*, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.

“Other terrestrial mammals” refers to all terrestrial mammals, except cattle and pig.

“Other poultry animals” refers to all poultry, except chicken.

“Other fish” refers to all fish, except salmoniformes, anguilliformes, and perciformes.

“Other aquatic animals” refers to all aquatic animal, except fish, shelled molluscs and crustaceans.