



Australian Government
Wheat Exports Australia

CHEMICAL RESIDUES IMPORTING COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS



The chemical residue results from the 2007–2008 National Residue Survey (NRS) indicate that all bulk export grain samples were 100% compliant with the relevant Australian Standards. These results play an important role in continuing to secure access to key export markets.

NRS is part of an Australian Government and industry strategy to minimise residues and environmental contaminants in Australian food commodities including bulk wheat exported under the *Wheat Export Marketing Act 2008*. The NRS is largely funded through levies from participating industries. It enables the identification of potential issues, and the opportunity to eliminate or reduce residues, through random and targeted compliance monitoring programs.

Sampling

Sampling of bulk export grain is conducted while grain is being out-turned to ships at the grain port terminals located throughout Australia. The NRS currently tests a sample from each hold of each ship loading bulk export grain. Samples are also collected from sites where bags and containers are filled for export. All samples are sent to NRS-contracted laboratories for analytical testing.

The general purpose of residue monitoring is to:

- > provide an estimate of the occurrence of residues in products
- > confirm (or otherwise) that residues in products are below set limits
- > alert responsible government authorities and industry if and when limits are exceeded so that corrective action can be taken.

MRLs

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are the maximum concentration of pesticide residue to be legally permitted in or on food commodities and animal feeds. In Australia, MRLs are set by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and are adopted into the

Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). MRLs are set at levels which are not likely to be exceeded if the agricultural or veterinary chemicals are used in accordance with approved label instructions. At the time that the MRLs are set, the APVMA undertakes a dietary exposure evaluation to ensure that the levels do not pose an undue hazard to human health.

Additionally, grain for export must meet the importing countries MRLs. Some countries do not have their own MRLs and recognise Codex Alimentarius Commission MRLs. Codex is the international food standards setting body that sets standards that are considered acceptable and safe for human consumption.

Australian wheat exporters must ensure that wheat they intend to export meets the importing countries MRLs. Issues can occur when the country of destination is changed. For example, the Philippines and Indonesia have different MRLs - this may cause issues where a shipment destined for one country is changed to a different country at short notice. This affects grain accumulation and treatment of grain with some insecticides.

International MRLs for Grains

Please visit the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) website to access the database of International MRLs for Grains. MRLs listed represent the official standards. Specific marketing requirements should be clarified between the buyer and seller but should not exceed the official standard.

Please note: the [International MRLs for Grains](#) is password protected, please enter your details where requested on the DAFF website or contact NRS on +61 2 6272 5668.

Quick Links

- [Grain port terminals](#)
- [National Residue Survey](#)
- [Maximum Residue Levels](#)
- [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#)

Further information

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