



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON TRADE FACILITATIVE
APPROACHES TO PESTICIDE MRLS, INCLUDING SUBSTANCES
NOT APPROVED FOR USE IN AN IMPORT MARKET**

**TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2022
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

Revision

The SPS Committee agreed, at its November 2021 meeting, to hold a thematic session on Trade Facilitative Approaches to Pesticide MRLs in the margins of its March 2022 Committee meeting, based on a proposal submitted by Australia, Colombia, Paraguay, and the United States.¹

The thematic session will explore different approaches used by Members to address various issues associated with pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) and provide an opportunity for Members to share their experiences and best practices with regard to facilitating safe trade. Trade facilitative approaches may include harmonizing with Codex MRLs, including as a default, and establishing import tolerances, and Members have a variety of tools at their disposal to help develop least restrictive approaches to pesticide MRLs in agricultural trade. The thematic session will build off of recent work by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in this area and provide Members an opportunity to learn from one another and from key private sector perspectives, including those involving transition periods and channels of trade.

The thematic session will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday, 22 March 2022, beginning at 10:00 (CET), and continuing in the afternoon at 15:00 (CET). The thematic session can be attended in person² or virtually through the Interprefy platform. Interpretation will be provided in English, French, and Spanish.

¹ [G/SPS/GEN/1947](#).

² Subject to COVID-19 restrictions that may apply.

Chairperson: Mr Juteau Déadjufo Toussé

1 BACKGROUND

The SPS Agreement and recent relevant work in the SPS Committee.

Speaker:

- **Ms Camille Fléchet**, Dispute Settlement Lawyer, WTO Secretariat. *The SPS Agreement, the SPS Committee, and pesticide MRLs.*

Context: the economic case for addressing MRLs and the impacts of risk-based and trade facilitative enforcement practices (Member and industry perspectives).

Speakers:

- **Ms Su McCluskey**, Special Representative for Australian Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. *An Australian perspective – Global solutions.*
- **Dr Gabriele Ludwig**, Director, Sustainability and Environmental Affairs, Almond Board of California. *Integrated Pest Management, trade, and MRLs: example almonds.*
- **Dr David Epstein**, Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Northwest Horticultural Council. *A perspective from the US Pacific Northwest.*
- **Mr Geoffrey Onen**, Assistant Commissioner, Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory, Uganda. *Uganda perspective on trade challenges and solutions to MRLs in food commodities.*

Followed by Q&A session.

2 THE ROLE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS: JMPR AND CCPR

Perspective and guidance from the Codex Alimentarius, with a focus on the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR).

Speakers:

- **Dr Ian Dewhurst**, JMPR Expert. *JMPR – Procedures behind the establishment of MRLs.*
- **Ms Gracia Brisco**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Secretariat. *Recent developments in CCPR on the establishment of MRLs for pesticides in food and feed.*

Followed by Q&A session.

Member experiences harmonizing with Codex MRLs, including as a default (importing and exporting Members, and industry).

Speakers:

- **Ms Hermine Reich**, Senior Scientific Officer, European Food Safety Authority. *Pesticide Codex MRLs and EU risk assessment.*
- **Mr Diogo Penha Soares**, Health Regulation Expert, Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency. *Brazil's experience harmonizing with Codex MRLs.*
- **Dr Bill Jolly**, Chief Assurance Strategy Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand. *New Zealand's commitment to harmonization of international agrichemical assessment processes and recognition of MRLs.*
- **Mr Gord Kurbis**, Vice-President, Trade Policy – Crop Protection, Canada Grains Council. *Exporters' perspectives on pesticide regulations.*

Followed by Q&A session.

3 THE ROLE OF IMPORT TOLERANCES

APEC Guideline on Setting Import Tolerances.

Speakers:

- **Mr Steve J. Crossley**, Director of International Affairs and Dietary Exposure Assessment, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (Canberra). *The development of guidance on import MRLs and international initiatives.*
- **Ms Anna Gore**, Senior Program Manager, United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service. *Leveraging the APEC Import MRL Guidelines for trade facilitation in ASEAN.*

Followed by Q&A session.

Member experiences with import tolerances (importing and exporting Members).

Speakers:

- **Ms Jung Kyunghye**, Scientific Officer, Residues and Contaminants Standard Division, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Republic of Korea. *Import tolerance and positive list system in Korea.*
- **Mr Eduardo Aylwin**, Advisor, Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency (ACHIPIA). *The role of import tolerances – the perspective of Chile, an exporting country.*
- **Dr Chia-Ding Liao**, Section Chief, Food Safety Division, Food and Drug Administration, Chinese Taipei. *Experience sharing on current practice in establishing import tolerances for pesticide residues in food.*

Followed by Q&A session.

4 ADDRESSING MRL ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

Member and industry experiences with limits of detection, and channels of trade/transition periods.

Speakers:

- **Dr Charlotte Liang**, Chemist, Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, United States Food and Drug Administration and **Ms Dana Friedman**, Chief, Risk Management and Implementation Branch I, Pesticide Re-evaluation Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, United States Environmental Protection Agency. *US pesticide regulatory decisions and channels of trade considerations for implementation.*
- **Dr Reinhold Kugel**, Head of Product Safety, BarthHaas GmbH & Co. KG and Plant Protection Representative, German Hop Industry Association. *MRL enforcement issues and experiences of the German hop industry.*
- **Ms Carmen Tiu**, Global MRL and Import Tolerances Leader, Regulatory Affairs and Product Stewardship, Corteva Agriscience. *Registrant experience MRL enforcement: trade impact and food for thought.*

Followed by Q&A session.

5 CLOSING REMARKS
