



17 June 2016

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WORKSHOP ON MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS (MRLS)
MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER – TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2016**

PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a special workshop on maximum residue levels (MRLs) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on Monday, 24 October and Tuesday, 25 October 2016. The workshop will be followed by informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee during the same week. Representatives of Members, Observers and Observer Organizations are all invited to participate in the workshop on 24 and 25 October, as well as the subsequent meetings of the Committee on 26 and 27 October 2016.
2. Documents G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.6 and G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.6/Add.1 provide information on the workshop, deadline for submission of applications, and criteria for funding of officials to attend the workshop. The WTO, with the financial assistance of the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), will sponsor the participation of at least 25 government officials from developing country Members and Observers. The Secretariat will select participants to be sponsored among applications from government officials holding direct responsibilities in the SPS area.
3. The workshop will provide a platform for discussion and experience sharing on developments and best practices in the area of maximum residue levels for pesticides and veterinary drug residues.
4. The following is the proposed programme of the workshop. Delegations wishing to provide any specific comments regarding this programme should submit them to the WTO (E-mail: Anneke.Hamilton@wto.org) by **29 July 2016**.
5. Members will also be invited to comment on the proposed programme for the workshop at the SPS Committee meeting on 30 June - 1 July 2016.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

**WORKSHOP ON MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS
MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER – TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2016
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2016

10:00 – 10:30

Workshop Overview and Objectives

This session will provide an overview of the workshop and its objectives.

Speaker: WTO Secretariat (*TBC*)

10:30 – 11:00

Session 1: The SPS Agreement and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)

The Secretariat will provide a background presentation on the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement and summarize the relevant WTO jurisprudence related to maximum residue levels.

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

11:00 – 13:00

Session 2: Codex Approach to Establishing MRLs

Part 1: Pesticide MRLs

Introduction to the Codex approach to establishing pesticide MRLs. This will include relevant information on the respective work of Codex and other scientific bodies such as the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residue (JMPR).

Part 2: Veterinary Drug MRLs

Introduction to the Codex approach to establishing veterinary drug MRLs. This will include relevant information on the respective work of Codex and other scientific bodies such as the Codex Committee on Residue and Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).

Moderator: *TBC*

Speakers: *TBC*

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 15:45

Session 2: Codex Approach to Establishing MRLs (cont'd)

Part 3: Round table Q&A session with the experts to answer questions specific to the Codex Approach.

Moderator: *TBC*

Speakers: *TBC*

15:45 – 17:45

Session 3: Relevant Bilateral, Regional and International Work on Pesticide Residues

In this session, relevant bilateral, regional or international work will be presented in the area of maximum residue levels for pesticides.

Moderator: *TBC*

Part 1: OECD and APEC Guidance on MRLs

This session will provide an update on OECD and APEC work. In particular, speakers will focus on OECD guidance on residue definitions, testing and the harmonization work programme, as well as APEC Import MRL guideline for pesticides.

Speakers: *TBC*

- **Donna Davis**, Office of Pesticide Programs, US Environmental Protection Agency (*TBC*)
- *TBC*

Part 2: Establishing MRLs for Minor-Use Crops

In this session, speakers will also address issues related to establishing MRLs for minor-use crops (i.e. crops of low pesticide usage on a global scale). In particular, focus will be placed on the ongoing work being carried out through projects (supported by the STDF, USDA, IDB, JMPR and/or others) in Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America, including the experiences in identifying MRL needs for developing country exports.

Speakers: *TBC*

- **Dan Kunkel**, Associate Director, Food and International Programs, IR-4 Project Headquarters, Rutgers State University of New Jersey (*TBC*)
The experience of IR4 in identifying MRL needs for developing country exports and generating data packages and supporting international harmonization
- **John A. Pwamang**, Deputy Executive Director/Operations, Environmental Protection Agency - Ghana (*TBC*)
- **Jason Sandahl**, Trade and Scientific Capacity Building Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, US Department of Agriculture (*TBC*)

17:45 – 18:00

Closing remarks and wrap-up of day 1

Speaker: *TBC*

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2016

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Remarks**10:15 – 12:15****Session 4: Domestic Frameworks and Approaches for Establishing MRLs and Import Tolerances****Moderator:** TBC**Part 1: Domestic Policy, Regulatory and Legal Infrastructures for Establishing MRLs**

In this session, speakers will explain their domestic regulatory and legal infrastructures for establishing MRLs.

Speakers: TBC

- **European Union:** *The EU policy for setting pesticide MRLs*
- TBC

Part 2: Domestic Frameworks for Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Through the use of case studies, speakers in this session will provide insights into their domestic frameworks for establishing MRLs and import tolerances. In particular, speakers will highlight their approaches to risk assessment and risk management where no international standard exists or where an existing international standard is not used. This session will also explore concerns related to specific commodity and pesticide combinations.

Speakers: TBC

- **Australia** (TBC)
- **Dr Peter Chan**, Director General, Health Evaluation Directorate, Health Canada, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (TBC)

12:15 – 13:00**Session 5: Experiences in Implementing and Complying with Codex MRLs**

This session will explore Members' experiences in implementing existing Codex MRLs from an importer's perspective. In addition, the session will provide additional insights into the difficulties and challenges faced in complying with MRLs from an exporter's perspective. Experiences will also be shared in relation to the application of measures for compounds that cannot be detected in final products.

Moderator: TBC**Speakers:** TBC

- **Rakitskiy Valeriy**, Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences
Harmonization of Russian pesticide MRLs with Codex standards (TBC)
- **Dominican Republic:** *The impact of implementation of Codex MRLs on export of fruits and fresh vegetables* (TBC)

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break**15:00 – 15:45****Session 6: The Role of the Private Sector in the Establishment and Implementation of MRLs**

Through the use of specific examples, speakers in this session will explore the various ways in which the private sector can be involved in the establishment of MRLs and their experiences in the implementation of MRLs. In particular, this session will highlight the role of the private sector in providing support for the scientific review process through data sharing, expert consultation and contribution of financial resources to support the review process. This session will be followed by a question and answer period.

Moderator: TBC**Speakers:** TBC

15:45 – 17:30

Session 7: Impact on International Trade of MRLs

Part 1: Impact on International Trade of Compliance with Default MRLs

This session will explore the impact of the use of default MRLs on international trade, including those set at the limits of detection. Through the use of case studies, speakers will explain their experiences with addressing the use of default MRLs by trading partners and the subsequent impact on agricultural exports. This session will be followed by a question and answer period.

Part 2: Impact of MRL Expiration on Agricultural Trade

Speakers will highlight the potential impacts of MRL expiration on agricultural trade and the possible approaches to address potential environmental concerns that may be posed by older products while maintaining safe trade.

Moderator: TBC

Speakers: TBC

17:30 – 18:00

Session 8: Conclusions

Speakers will identify a few key conclusions of the sessions. This session will also include a question and answer period.

Moderator: TBC

Speakers:

- Developing country perspective – TBC
- Developed country perspective - TBC
