



Definitions, abbreviations and acronyms

National Residue Survey 2006–2007

Definitions

Australian Standard

The Australian Standard is the MRL/ERL or ML (as applicable) stipulated in the FSANZ Standards 1.4.1 (MLs) and 1.4.2 (MRLs), up to Amendment 91, 15 February 2007.

Contaminants

Contaminants include substances not intentionally added to a product, but which may be present following routine production (see ML). For example, some metals and natural toxicants are contaminants. A food will contravene the ANZFSO if it contains a contaminant at a concentration greater than the ML. However, where no ML is established, the detection of contaminant is not interpreted as a contravention. Australian MLs are listed in Section 1.4.1 of the ANZFSO.

In this report, environmental contaminants are defined as undesirable metal residues that can be found in soil or water and can contaminate animals and plants.

Extraneous residue limit²⁰

An extraneous residue limit (ERL) is defined as the maximum permitted limit of a pesticide residue, arising from environmental sources other than the use of a pesticide directly or indirectly, in or on a food, agricultural commodity or animal feed. The concentration is expressed in mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram or parts per million) of the commodity. There are ERLs for selected commodities for several organochlorine pesticides no longer in use in Australian agriculture (e.g. DDT and dieldrin).

Limit of reporting

The limit of reporting (LOR) is the minimum concentration (mg/kg) of a residue used for reporting purposes. Results of analyses lower than the LOR are not included in this report. Typically the LOR set by NRS is 10–20% of the respective MRL/ERL or ML.

Maximum level

A maximum level (ML) is defined as the maximum tolerable concentration of a contaminant (e.g. metal or natural toxicant) in or on a food, agricultural commodity or animal feed. The concentration is expressed in mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram or parts per million) of the commodity.

²⁰ Based on the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

Maximum residue limit²¹

The maximum residue limit (MRL) is the maximum concentration of a residue that is legally permitted, or recognised as acceptable in, or on, a food, agricultural commodity or animal feed. It results from the officially authorised safe use of an agricultural or veterinary (agvet) chemical. The concentration is expressed in mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram or parts per million) of the commodity.

Residues

Residues include pesticides and veterinary drugs currently in use (see MRLs below) or pesticides that are no longer registered for use (see ERLs below), but are known to persist in the environment (e.g. some organochlorine chemicals). Residues can also include derivatives of chemicals, conversion products, metabolites, reaction products and impurities considered to be of toxicological significance. The Australian MRLs and ERLs are listed in Section 1.4.2 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (ANZFSC).

Detections of chemicals above the specified MRL or ERL contravene the ANZFSC. Also, if no MRL or ERL is listed for a chemical in the ANZFSC, there must be no detectable residue of the chemical in that product. Any detection at any level is deemed a contravention.

Residue action level

The residue action level is the concentration of a residue of an agvet chemical or contaminant in a food, agricultural commodity or animal feed above which a detection can result in action by the state or territory government regulatory authorities, including the initiation of a traceback investigation to the property where the residue-containing product originated.

Residue random monitoring projects

Projects designed to obtain a profile of the occurrence of a residue in a commodity, using a statistically defined sampling process.

²¹ Based on APVMA definition of an MRL.

Abbreviations and acronyms

the Act	<i>National Residue Survey Administration Act 1992 (Cwlth)</i>
agvet	agricultural and veterinary
AHBIC	Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
AMRA	Australian Milk Residue Analysis
ANU	Australian National University
ANZFSC	Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
ANZFRMC	Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council
APAL	Apple and Pear Australia Limited
APVMA	Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
AWI	Australian Wool Innovation Limited
The Code	Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
Codex	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CSO	community service obligation
Cwlth	Australian Commonwealth
DDT	dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane or 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(p-chlorophenyl) ethane
Department	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DFSV	Dairy Food Safety Victoria
EC	European Commission
EOI	expression of interest
ERL	extraneous residue limit
EU	European Union
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia New Zealand
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture
HCB	hexachlorobenzene

HCH	hexachlorocyclohexane (formerly benzene hexachloride–BHC)
HGP	hormonal growth promotants
IT	information technology
IEA	industry equalisation account
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IWTO	International Wool Textile Organisation
LOR	limit of reporting
LPA	livestock production assurance
LPE	laboratory performance evaluation
LPE Committee	NRS Laboratory Performance Evaluation Committee
ML	maximum level
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MRL	maximum residue limit
NARM	national antibacterial residue minimisation
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NORM	national organochlorine residue management
NRS	National Residue Survey
NVD	National Vendor Declaration
OC	organochlorine
OP	organophosphate
Panel	NRS Advisory Panel
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PIAPH	Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health
Plan	<i>National Residue Survey Operational and Expenditure Plan 2006–2007</i>
PT	proficiency testing
RC-LPE	NRS Residue Chemistry and Laboratory Performance Evaluation team
SECC	AQIS Seafood Export Consultative Committee
SP	synthetic pyrethroid
START	sheep targeted antibacterial residue testing project

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TART	targeted antibacterial residue testing project
TGA	Therapeutic Goods Administration
TTWG	Targeted Testing Working Group (of SAFEMEAT)
US	United States of America
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WHO	World Health Organisation