Residue Data for Agricultural Chemicals: Q + A

ACVM information paper (November 2017)

1. Introduction

Information requirements for residue data in support of an application to register (or variation) an agricultural chemical under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997 have been revised into a guidance document. The following should answer questions you may have about the differences between the old and new requirements. If you do have other questions, contact the ACVM Group (details at end).

2. When will the new document come into effect?

The guidance document, Residue Data for Agricultural Chemicals, is in effect now. All residue data will be assessed against this document. However, we know that trials are underway or have been recently concluded using the requirements of the previous standard, so a transition period of 3 years will be adopted. During this time, residue data submitted with trial components conducted prior to 30 November 2020 will be considered against the old requirements.

3. Why has the required trial number increased?

In many cases the minimum trial number for a crop type has increased to 4 trials, with trial numbers for major crops increased in proportion to this. The trial numbers represent a more statistically robust basis for determining residue levels and allocating the most appropriate MRL.

4. Is good laboratory practice (GLP) approval required for field trials or lab work?

GLP approval of field trials or analytical work is not mandatory. However, in its absence sufficient data should still be generated by the field trials and residue laboratory to detail that quality procedures are in place to support the accuracy of the results.

5. Have the substitution rules increased?

Yes, the substitution rules have increased for domestic field trials from 40% to 50% substitution for domestic field trials. Substitution of 100% of domestic glasshouse crop trials with overseas data remains the same.

6. Have some of the crop grouping names changed?

Yes, CODEX has renamed some of the crop groupings, and New Zealand aligns (where appropriate) with CODEX. In time, any MRLs set for crop groupings will have the crop grouping name also updated to reflect that stated in Residue Data for Agricultural Chemicals.

7. How do I get an MRL promulgated?

MRLs are set under the Food Act 2014. Once a residue data assessment has been accepted as part of an application for registration, we will consider the conclusions, assess dietary intake, and propose the most appropriate MRL for regulating GAP.

The current version and general information on MRLs can be found at the following link: Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for Agricultural Compounds.

For more information, contact us (approvals@mpi.govt.nz).