

**Report**  
**Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues**  
**July 20, 2022**

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The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues met virtually from July 4-8, 2022. This was the second year in a row that the Committee met virtually. The meeting in 2020 was cancelled due to the covid pandemic.

### **Codex Meeting on Pesticide Residues**

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues is a joint collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to set maximum residue levels (MRLs) on pesticides to facilitate the trade of agriculture and food commodities. CCQC attends as a delegate from the International Society of Citriculture to advocate for the establishment of MRLs for citrus fruits. Eighty-two member countries, the European Union and observers from 16 international organizations attended the meeting.

The Committee discussed a range of technical issues that determine policies for risk assessment, management of priorities and process improvements.

- The following actions were taken regarding citrus MRLs:
  - Imazalil citrus crop group approved at 15 ppm
  - Mandipropamid MRLs were approved for lemon, lime and mandarin (0.5 ppm); orange (0.4 ppm); pummelo and grapefruit (0.2 ppm)
  - Pydiflumetofen MRLs for the citrus crop group were approved at 0.9 ppm
  - All citrus chlorpyrifos MRLs were withdrawn until Codex completes its periodic review of chlorpyrifos in 2024.
  - Due to concerns raised about the safety of fenproximate the Committee agreed to withdraw the proposed MRLs for mandarins and oranges and maintain the MRLs for lemon, lime, pummelo and grapefruit.
  - The MRLs for metalaxyl / metalaxyl-M were held at step 4 (not approved) while the registrant works to develop data to support establishment of MRLs.
  - The Codex MRLs for 2- phenylphenol (OPP) were proposed for deletion, since this compound is overdue for periodic review and no registrant has been identified to provide data for the review. The Committee agreed to reconsider the issue at the next Committee meeting. Meanwhile, CCQC has contacted a European registrant that is willing to provide data for the review. Under Codex guidelines, the registrant will be given four years to provide data for the review.
  
- The Committee reviewed the need to continue the activities of the electronic working group that is evaluating a proposal to change a risk assessment equation on the International Estimate of Short-Term Intake (IESTI) that could result in more conservative risk assessments and reduce the number of Codex MRLs. The Committee determined that the current risk assessment equation is protective and there is no need to change the assessment equation. The working group was disbanded.

- The Committee approved new guidelines for compounds of low public health concern that may be exempted from the establishment of Codex MRLs or do not give rise to residues. The guidelines apply to compounds such as biopesticides that are usually not assigned MRL. They are usually exempt from MRLs in most countries, so the guidelines will clarify the safety of these compounds.
- The Committee agreed to select a global project manager to coordinate engagement of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), the pesticide review managers who conduct Codex MRL risk assessments, for new compounds that will undergo a parallel review process at Codex and a national pesticide authority. This process will conduct a parallel risk assessment for designated new compounds undergoing review at a national authority. It should make Codex reviews faster while saving resources, which is an ongoing problem in Codex.
- The Committee agreed to reconvene an electronic working group to determine how to manage unsupported compounds without public health concern that are scheduled for periodic review. Many compounds designated for periodic review are not believed to have health concerns but there is no entity willing to provide data for periodic reviews.
- The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group to solicit input on how Codex can improve the operational procedures of JMPR and CCPR to eliminate the backlog of evaluations and to meet the future demand for the establishment of Codex MRLs.

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