

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

50th Session
Haikou, P.R. China, 9-14 April 2018

Discussion paper on efforts towards MRL harmonization in APEC

(Prepared by Australia and the United States)

Australia and the United States appreciate the efforts and sustained work of the APEC countries under the Food Safety Cooperation Forum to work towards harmonization of MRLs as identified in the Action Plan to Implement the APEC Regulatory Cooperation Plan.

Australia and the United States recognize that some of the important documents completed as part of this work, including the "APEC Import MRL Guidelines for Pesticides," and others, may be useful and applicable to non-APEC countries. In order to share information and facilitate further discussion on this topic within CCPR, Australia and the United States would like to make members aware of a recent side event that took place on the sidelines of this meeting on April 5-6, entitled, "Trade Facilitation through Harmonization of Import Maximum Residue Limits: Phase 3: Development of Two Implementation Tools." The workshop was the first of two meetings to develop two tools that can further support the uptake of the APEC Import MRL Guidelines for Pesticides. The tools that discussed were: 1) a compendium that will capture relevant information about government administration of regulatory import MRLs for pesticides; and 2) a template that will describe the necessary information that will enable an import MRL request. An electronic working group was formed in the workshop and the tools will be finalized and presented at the next APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum meeting in May 2019. There will be one more physical workshop to further develop these tools on October 11-12 in Brisbane, Australia. The tools will be used to help facilitate the utilization of the APEC Import MRL Tolerances Guidelines for Pesticides.

The recent workshop was organized and facilitated by Australia, and the majority of APEC countries participated. Australia and the United States are aware that other countries may be interested in learning more about the APEC Import MRL Tolerance Guidelines for Pesticides. A summary of the recent workshop, the presentations from it, and these tools once completed will be available on the APEC website. The APEC MRL Import MRL Tolerance Guidelines for Pesticides are submitted as an attachment to this document, which may be of interest to countries participating in CCPR. We invite countries to review and consider these Guidelines and the accompanying tools. There will also be a workshop organized by the United States on October 9-10 in Brisbane to discuss safe, trade-facilitative approaches to inspection and testing for MRL enforcement.