

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



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TOPIC: *Potential Residues arising in grain from Storage & Handling Infrastructure*

DISTRIBUTION: *GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.*

1. Status Update

- The Australian grain industry has an enviable reputation for producing grain that meets market requirements, specifically for the many maximum residue limits (MRLs) that apply in each market for a range of chemicals.
- Where chemicals are used, there is a risk that grain moved through the storage and handling infrastructure (e.g. storages, augers) may pick up low levels of residues from grain previously moved through that infrastructure. Residues have also arisen from grain transported in road trucks that had previously transported chemically treated fertiliser (commonly called back-loading).
- While the industry implements measures to minimise this risk of contamination when handling these commodities through a common infrastructure, analysis of domestic and export shipments operating under these industry “risk mitigation strategies” indicates residues do arise above the permitted MRL.
- Recently the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the Australian government body responsible for assessing and approving chemicals for use on grain, advised industry of a proposal to alter the current registered label for flutriafol on canola. Canola is an example of a commodity (like many other oilseeds) that is prone to picking up low levels of chemical residues under certain circumstances unless appropriate risk mitigation strategies are adopted.
- While the decision to alter the registration for flutriafol on canola has not been finalised, industry is reminded that compliance with MRLs for all chemicals in all markets is mandatory.
- With the harvest commencing in most States, industry is reminded that care should be taken to ensure that any treatment to grain or infrastructure, or transport of commodities such as in road trucks does not heighten the risk of chemical residues inadvertently contaminating subsequent loads.
- Where the risk of inadvertent residues arises, industry must continue to implement appropriate mitigation strategies.

2. Further Details

- A range of material is available to guide industry and ensure Australia's marketing reputation as a reliable supplier of safe grain that complies with market requirements is maintained. Various tools include:
 - Commodity Vendor Declaration <http://www.graintrade.org.au/contracts>
 - Code of Practice <http://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-codes>
 - Technical Guideline Document (No.18) for cleaning of road transport vehicles <http://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-code-practice/gta-technical-guidelines>
 - Code of Practice for Road Transport <http://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-codes>