

MemberUpdate

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TOPIC: National Residue Survey Grain Results 2017/18

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

1. Background

- The National Residue Survey (NRS) is an operational unit within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.
- The NRS monitors residues of pesticides, veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants in Australian food commodities.
- For grains, the residue monitoring program is funded by statutory NRS levies on a range of cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

2. Survey Results 2017/18 Season

- The 2017/18 NRS results have recently been released.
- In 2017/18, a total of 5,857 samples were collected for analysis.
- For the bulk export program, 99.8% of samples showed compliance with Australian maximum residue limits (MRLs).
- For the container export program, 99.0% of samples showed compliance with Australian maximum residue limits (MRLs).
- For the domestic trade program, 97.4% of samples showed compliance with Australian maximum residue limits (MRLs).
- These results are similar to recent years and show the grain industry is undertaking appropriate measures along the supply chain to ensure customer and importing country requirements for chemical residue limits are being met.

3. Industry Obligations

- Industry is reminded that continued compliance with market requirements is a corner-stone of our grain industry.
- Correct use of chemicals as per label directions and meeting statutory MRL limits on grain supplied to the domestic and export market is a regulatory requirement.
- Under the Australian grain industry Code of Practice the following industry sectors are required to actively participate on a continuous basis in the NRS grain residue monitoring program, and to comply with any NRS directions applying to that program:
 - All grain organisations out-turning on the domestic market to an end-processor (who is not defined as a primary producer);
 - All bulk grain exporters;
 - All container exporters; and
 - Where relevant, operators of facilities who provide grain as part of the above services.
- To assist industry interpretation of their obligations to participate in the NRS program, GTA has released a Technical Guideline Document.

- In addition, as required by legislation industry will not trade (i.e., supply) in grain on the domestic or export market that contains a chemical in violation of relevant legislation.

4. Further Information

National Residue Survey

- The summary brochure for the 2017/18 season will shortly be made available on the NRS website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/food/nrs/nrs-results-publications>
- This brochure is currently being translated to Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean and will be available for industry distribution.
- Specific data for each commodity in the program for the 2017/18 season can also be found on the NRS website.
- Further information can be found on the above NRS website or by contacting NRS at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/food/nrs/contact>

Grain Trade Australia

- The Australian grain industry Code of Practice can be found here <http://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-codes>
- Technical Guideline Document No.20 "National Residue Survey Participation" can be found here <http://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-code-practice/gta-technical-guidelines>

Market Requirements

- Permitted chemicals for use post-harvest and applicable MRLs for grain outturned to the Australian domestic or export markets can be found here <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>