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Report Name: Canada Proposes Residue Revisions for EBDC Fungicides

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Vegetables, Fresh Fruit, Dried Fruit, Tomatoes and Products

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Report Highlights:

Canada is proposing revisions to ethylene bisdithiocarbamate (EBDC) fungicide maximum residue limits (MRLs) for several commodities. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) reviewed EBDC fungicides: mancozeb, metiram, maneb, and zineb. As a result of cancelations and revisions in approved uses, PMRA proposes to revise, including revoking, MRLs for EBDC fungicides on several commodities with a focus on mancozeb. Proposed MRLs will be based on a residue definition expressed as carbon disulfide The consultation is open until May 12, 2026.

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has initiated a consultation for proposed changes to maximum residue limits (MRLs) of ethylene bisdithiocarbamate (EBDC) fungicides: mancozeb, metiram, maneb, and zineb. The 75-day consultation period will last until May 12, 2026. To comment, stakeholders should read the proposed decision, PMRL 2026-06, and submit comments to PMRA Publications Section. Comments may be submitted electronically by consultation form, by email, or by mail.

Canada has previously established EBDC fungicides MRLs for a number of fruit and vegetable commodities. PMRA canceled registrations for maneb and zineb in Canada several years ago and more recently revised approved uses of mancozeb and metiram. As a result of these changes in approved uses, PMRA is updating MRLs for all EBDC fungicides. The only approved food use for metiram in Canada is on potato crops and given that potatoes were already regulated under Canada's general MRL of 0.1 ppm, there are no proposed changes.

Given that maneb and zineb are no longer registered in Canada and mancozeb remains the only EBDC fungicide with MRLs established beyond the specificity of Canada's general MRL, PMRA is now proposing to change the residue definition for EBDC fungicides to one based on the residue definition of mancozeb with residues expressed as carbon disulfide (CS_2). Currently, EBDC fungicides in Canada have a residue definition expressed as manganese and zinc ethylenbis (dithiocarbamate) (polymeric).

With this new residue definition, PMRA is also proposing to revise MRLs for commodities with retained domestic uses for mancozeb and revoke MRLs for commodities where domestic uses are canceled. Once established, these MRL revisions will apply to both domestic and imported products. In instances where MRLs are revoked, the established MRL will become Canada's general MRL of 0.1 ppm.

PMRA is proposing to establish new MRLs with a residue definition based on CS_2 for apples, cucumbers, dry bulb onion, grapes, and tomatoes. For apples, cucumbers, and grapes, PMRA is proposing an MRL that is equal to or greater than the established U.S. tolerance. PMRA is proposing a lower MRL (see Table 1) for dry bulb onion and tomatoes. For dry bulb onions, the PMRA proposal of 0.5 ppm is a match with the current EBDC fungicide MRL. For tomatoes, PMRA is proposing to establish a new MRL of 2.0 ppm with the residue definition of CS_2, whereas the current EBDC fungicide MRL is 4.0 ppm.

PMRA is proposing to revoke EBDC fungicide MRLs for broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbages, cauliflowers, celery, dry lentils, eggplants, endives, green onions, lettuce, mushrooms, pears, and peppers. For the majority of these commodities, the U.S. has no established tolerances. For broccoli, cabbages, lettuce, pears, and peppers, the revocation of EBDC fungicide MRLs will see the Canadian general MRL of 0.1 ppm be lower than established U.S. tolerances, including significantly lower for some commodities (see Table 2).

Trade Data Highlights

- Canada is the top export market for U.S. fresh tomatoes by value; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 113 million. Over 80 percent of U.S. exports go to Canada.
- For HS code 070410 (Cauliflowers and broccoli) Canada is the top export market for U.S. exports; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 183 million. Around 90 percent of U.S. exports under this HS code go to Canada.
- Canada is the top export market for U.S. cabbage exports; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 78 million for HS codes 0704902050 and 0704902010. Around 90 percent of U.S. exports under this HS code go to Canada.
- For HS code 070519 (Lettuce, except head lettuce) Canada is the top export market for U.S. exports; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 394 million. Over 80 percent of U.S. exports under this HS code go to Canada. For HS code 070511 (Head lettuce) Canada is the top market for U.S. exports; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 92 million. Over 80 percent of U.S. exports under this HS code go to Canada.
- Canada is the second largest export market for U.S. fresh pear exports; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 41 million. Around 25 percent of U.S. exports go to Canada.
- For HS code 070960 (Fruits of the genus Capiscum or of the genus Pimenta) Canada is the top export market for U.S. exports; the five-year average value of annual exports to Canada is USD 87 million. Around 90 percent of U.S. exports under this HS code go to Canada.

Table 1: Comparison of proposed revisions to mancozeb MRLs

Food Commodity	Current Canadian MRL (ppm) [1]	Proposed Canadian MRL (ppm)[2]	U.S. Tolerance (ppm)[3]	Codex MRL (ppm)[4]
Dry bulb onions	0.5	**0.5**	**1.5**	0.5
Tomatoes	4.0	**2.0**	**2.5**	2

ppm = parts per million
[1]Residue definition expressed as manganese and zinc ethylenbis (dithiocarbamate) (polymeric)
[2]Residue definition expressed as CS_2
[3]Residue definition expressed as CS_2
[4]Residue definition expressed as CS_2

Table 2: Comparison of revoked EBDC fungicides MRLs

Food Commodity	Current Canadian MRL (ppm) [1]	Canadian MRL Once Revoked (ppm)[2]	U.S. Tolerance (ppm)[3]	Codex MRL (ppm)[4]
Broccoli	7.0	**0.1**	**7**	Not established
Cabbages	7.0	**0.1**	**9**	5
Lettuce	7.0	**0.1**	**3.5 (Lettuce, head)** **18 (Lettuce, leaf)**	0.5 (Head lettuce) 10 (Cos lettuce)
Pears	7.0	**0.1**	**0.6**	5 (Pome fruits group)
Peppers	7.0	**0.1**	**12**	1 (peppers, sweet, including pimento or pimiento)

ppm = parts per million
[1]Residue definition expressed as manganese and zinc ethylenbis (dithiocarbamate) (polymeric)
[2]Residue definition expressed as CS_2; where no established MRL exists, the general Canadian MRL is 0.1 ppm
[3]Residue definition expressed as CS_2
[4]Residue definition expressed as CS_2

Attachments:

No Attachments.