



NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides  
Grupo de Trabajo Técnico del TLCAN sobre Plaguicidas  
Groupe de travail technique de l'ALENA sur les pesticides

## CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF CATEGORY A TRADE IRRITANTS

In November, 1997, the Food Residues Subcommittee of the NAFTA Technical Working Group (TWG) produced a draft document entitled “*Procedures for the Identification and Resolution of NAFTA Pesticide Trade Irritants*”, in which several categories of trade irritants, with procedures for resolving each type of trade irritant, were defined. Version 2 of this document was released December 18, 1998 and is available electronically on the EPA and PMRA websites<sup>1</sup>.

An integral part of the procedure is the identification of Category A trade irritants<sup>2</sup>. Member countries under NAFTA have agreed to set aside resources to resolve Category A trade irritants through the Food Residues Subcommittee. The NAFTA member pesticide regulatory agencies will make an effort to schedule work on as many of these trade irritants as resources permit. Category A trade irritants will be prioritized so that, if the member regulatory agencies do not have sufficient resources to handle resolution of all trade irritants, the agencies can schedule work on those trade irritants with the highest priority first.

**In order to be considered for prioritization this year, all proposed Category A trade irritants must be received by one of the co-chairs of the Food Residues Subcommittee no later than April 30, 2000.**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla> under “international activities” or  
<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/naftatwg>

<sup>2</sup> A Category A trade irritant is defined as a discrepancy arising when an MRL/tolerance has been established in the exporting country, but it is lower or does not exist in the importing country, and the product has been documented to be out of compliance in the importing country.

Please refer to the document, “*Procedures for the Identification and Resolution of NAFTA Pesticide Trade Irritants - Version 2*”, for details on the submission of proposed Category A trade irritants. Briefly, each trade irritant identified must be accompanied by a statement, as outlined in section II. Category A.3. The identified trade irritants, and statements, should be submitted to one of the co-chairs of the Food Residues Subcommittee. Addresses and e-mail addresses for the co-chairs of the Food Residues Subcommittee are:

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