

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

#### Food and Drug Regulations - *Amendments*

#### **Interim Marketing Authorization**

Propiconazole is registered under the *Pest Control Products Act* as a fungicide for the control of several fungi on numerous crops. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) have been established under the *Food and Drugs Act* for residues of propiconazole and its metabolites resulting from these uses at 1 part per million (ppm) in apricots, cherries, peaches/nectarines and plums, 0.15 ppm in dried blueberries, 0.1 ppm in asparagus, 0.05 ppm in barley, oats and wheat, and 0.02 ppm in blueberries. An MRL has also been established at 2 ppm in liver and kidney of cattle to cover residues in food derived from animals fed with crops treated with propiconazole. By virtue of subsection B.15.002(1) of the *Food and Drug Regulations*, the MRL for other foods is 0.1 ppm.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), of Health Canada, has recently approved an application to amend the registration of propiconazole in order to allow its use for the control of yellow rust on blackberries, loganberries and raspberries. The PMRA has also been requested to establish an MRL for residues of propiconazole and its metabolites resulting from this use in blackberries, loganberries and raspberries, in order to permit the sale of food containing these residues.

Before making a registration decision regarding a new use of a pest control product, the PMRA conducts the appropriate assessment of the risks and value of the product specific to its proposed use. The registration of the pest control product will be amended if: the data requirements for assessing value and safety have been adequately addressed; the evaluation indicates that the product has merit and value; and the human health and environmental risks associated with its proposed use are acceptable.

After the review of all available data, the PMRA has determined that an MRL for propiconazole and its metabolites of 0.7 ppm in blackberries, loganberries and raspberries would not pose an unacceptable health risk to the public.

The use of propiconazole on blackberries, loganberries and raspberries will provide joint benefits to consumers and the

agricultural industry as a result of improved management of pests. In addition, the proposed regulatory amendment will contribute to a safe, abundant and affordable food supply by allowing the importation and sale of food commodities containing acceptable levels of pesticide residues.

Therefore, it is the intention of the PMRA to recommend that the *Food and Drug Regulations* be amended to establish an MRL for propiconazole and its metabolites of 0.7 ppm in blackberries, loganberries and raspberries.

As a means to improve the responsiveness of the regulatory system, an Interim Marketing Authorization (IMA) is being issued to permit the immediate sale of blackberries, loganberries and raspberries with an MRL for propiconazole and its metabolites of 0.7 ppm while the regulatory process to amend the Regulations is undertaken.

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