

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

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

#### **Interim Marketing Authorization**

Fenhexamid is registered under the *Pest Control Products Act* as a fungicide for the control of *Botrytis* diseases on grapes, red and black raspberries, loganberries, blackberries and strawberries. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) have been established under the *Food and Drugs Act* for residues of fenhexamid resulting from this use at 20 parts per million (ppm) in blackberries, loganberries and raspberries, 6 ppm in raisins, 4 ppm in grapes, and 3 ppm in strawberries. MRLs have also been established at 6 ppm in apricots, cherries and peaches/nectarines, 0.5 ppm in plums and 0.02 ppm in almonds imported into Canada, in order to permit the sale of food containing these residues. 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 fenhexamid in order to allow its use for the control of *Botrytis* diseases on lettuce and bushberries (blueberries, currants, elderberries, gooseberries and huckleberries). The PMRA has also been requested to establish MRLs for residues of fenhexamid in lettuce and in bushberries resulting from this use, 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 MRLs for fenhexamid of 23 ppm in lettuce and of 4 ppm in blueberries, currants, elderberries, gooseberries and

huckleberries would not pose an unacceptable health risk to the public.

The use of fenhexamid on lettuce and bushberries will provide joint benefits to consumers and the agricultural industry as a result of improved management of pests. In addition, this use 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 MRLs for fenhexamid of 23 ppm in lettuce and of 4 ppm in blueberries, currants, elderberries, gooseberries and huckleberries.

As a means to improve the responsiveness of the regulatory system, an Interim Marketing Authorization is being issued to permit the immediate sale of lettuce with an MRL of 23 ppm for fenhexamid and sale of blueberries, currants, elderberries, gooseberries and huckleberries with an MRL of 4 ppm for fenhexamid while the regulatory process to amend the Regulations is undertaken.

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