APEC Wine Regulatory Forum Report on Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits

Submitted by: Wine Australia

7th Wine Regulatory Forum
Ha Noi, Viet Nam
11-12 May 2017

APEC Wine Regulatory Forum Report on Pesticide MRLs

Steve Guy, Wine Australia

Introduction

- Each economy in the APEC region has developed its own regulatory system aimed at protecting the environment, public and consumer health, resulting in significant diversity in regulatory policies and approaches towards pesticide Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) setting, compliance and recognition.

- Trade in food, across the APEC region, can be severely disrupted when non-compliance with importing economy standards occurs. Such non-compliance can be due to MRL disparities arising either from MRLs based on differing use patterns (GAP) or the absence of a MRL in an importing economy. Dealing with such breaches can be problematic, particularly where there may be no public health concerns over potential dietary exposure (food safety).

- Differing GAP can result from differing pest/disease complexes, and differing public and occupational health and environmental considerations at the domestic level.

Background

- To assist in minimising such discrepancies and facilitate trade, while continuing to protect human health from potential pesticide risks, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum has developed a guidance document on approaches to achieve alignment of MRLs for pesticides within APEC.

- The primary benefit of this guidance is the development of a convergent regulatory approach, based on agreed principles that would allow economies to balance their regulatory needs with the goal of facilitating trade.

- Other important benefits include providing communication contacts with relevant APEC economy practitioners and increased opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and work sharing.

Scope

- In the context that APEC agreements are non-binding on APEC economies, the *Guideline* is meant to be used on a voluntary basis, as an aid for APEC economies when considering the alignment of domestic pesticide MRLs of plant protection products, with relevant international or regional standards (e.g., Codex, ASEAN MRLs) or an exporting economies MRLs.

- The overall objective is to provide a coherent framework within which APEC economies can identify the minimum dataset, to the extent necessary, upon which to assess a request for pesticide import MRLs where health based guidance values (ADI and ARfD), authorised use patterns and MRLs have been established, either internationally or in the exporting economy.

Issues and Recent Developments

- Under the APEC FSCF regulatory cooperation project (led by Australia), the voluntary guidance document on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs has been developed and will be published as a formal APEC document entitled "*Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides*".

- The *Guideline* is based on the concept of making best possible use of international, regional or exporting economy data assessments and intake risk estimates to support requests for pesticide import MRLs.
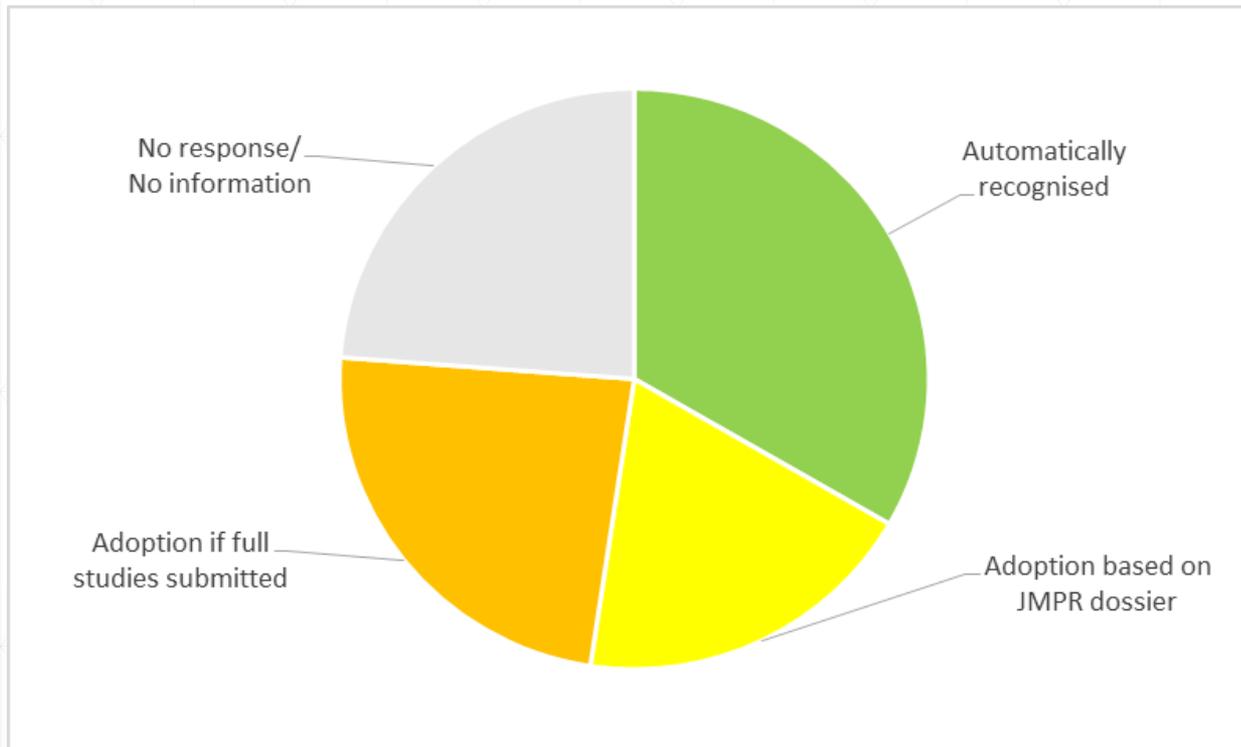
APEC WRF work

- Now that the *Guideline* has been circulated and endorsed by APEC FSCF member economies and the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF) developed Questionnaire to:-

- determine the extent to which APEC economies are able to apply the approaches suggested in the Guideline when considering requests for pesticide Import MRLs; and

- gather information on possible capacity-building or technical workshops that could facilitate the implementation of the Guideline.
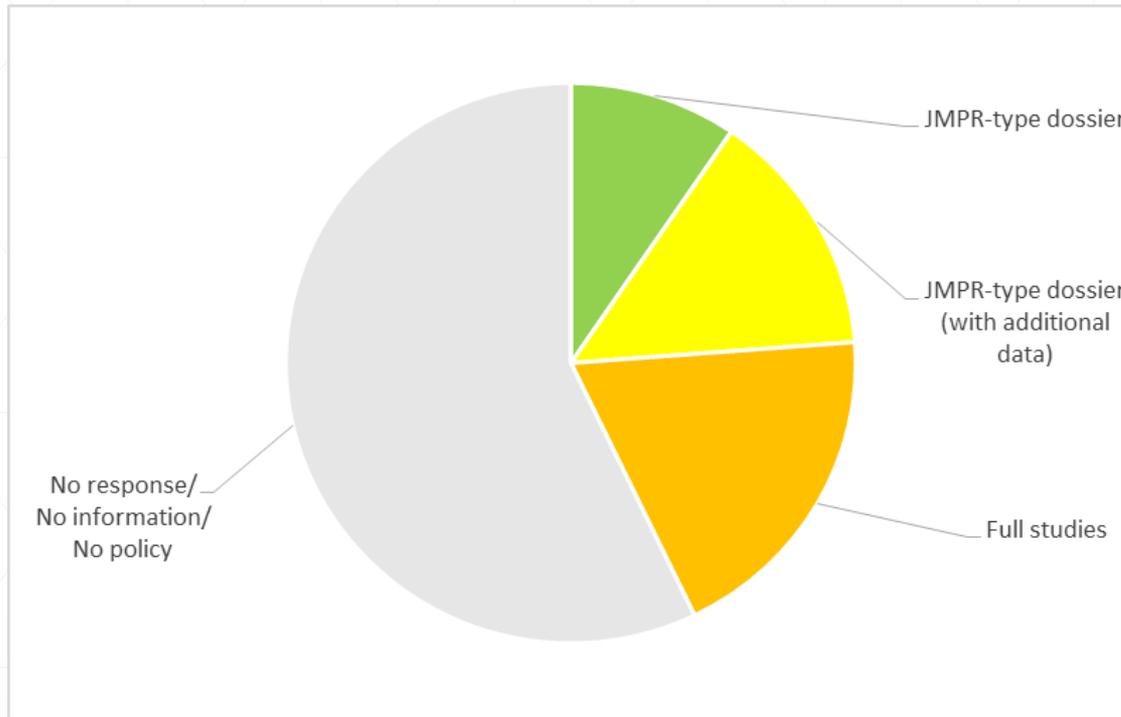
Results

The Questionnaire:

- Aim was to see if the Guideline was 'fit-for-purpose'

- Was circulated to 21 APEC Economy contact points

- Responses from 8 Economies

- Information from other sources was also used (if verified)
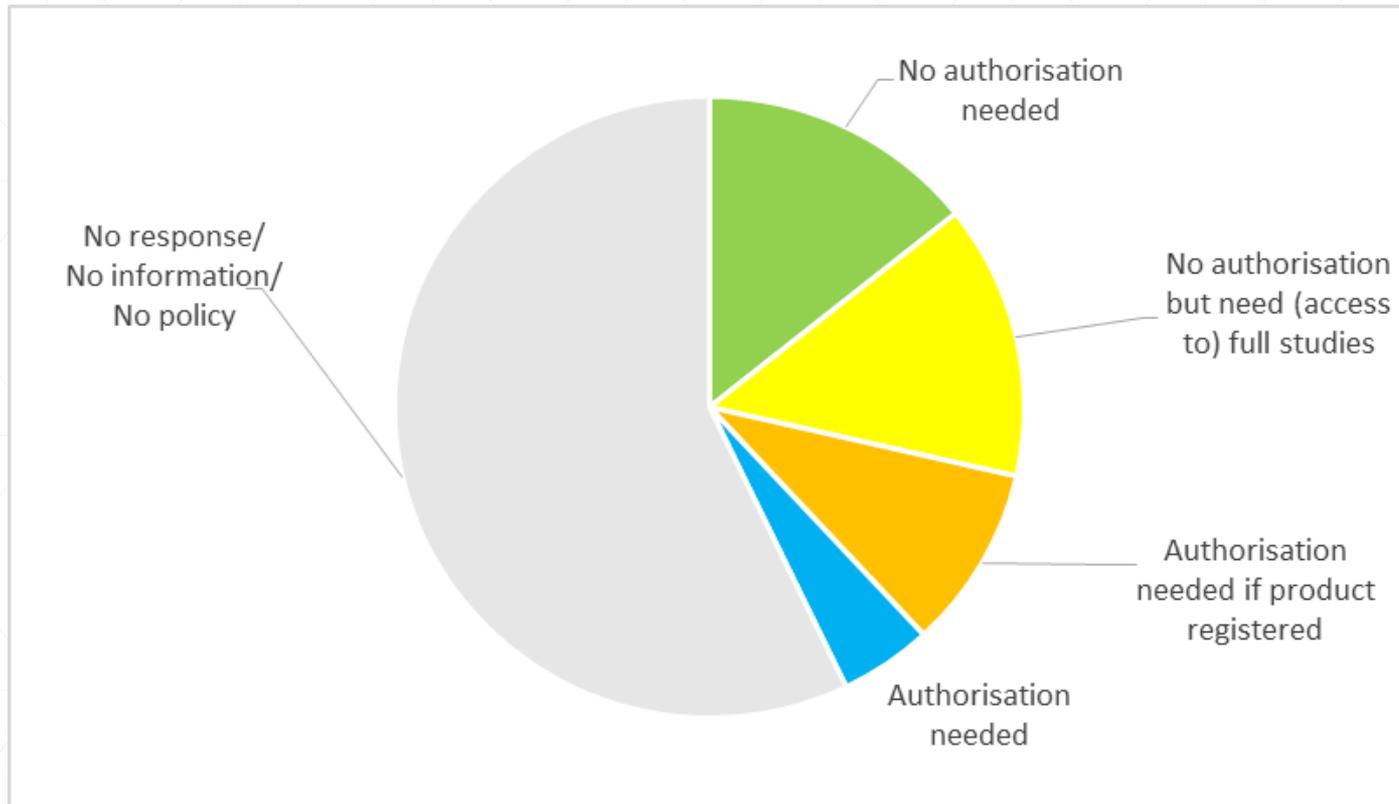
CODEX MRL Recognition or adoption

- At least 50% APEC Economies recognise or will adopt Codex MRLs if JMPR dossiers submitted. If no existing MRL, may need more data

- About 25% APEC Economies may need more data (up to full studies)

Non-Codex Import MRL Data Requirements

- At least 25% APEC Economies will adopt Import MRLs based on JMPR-type dossiers (with or without extra information).

- At least 20% APEC Economies may need comprehensive dossier (full studies)
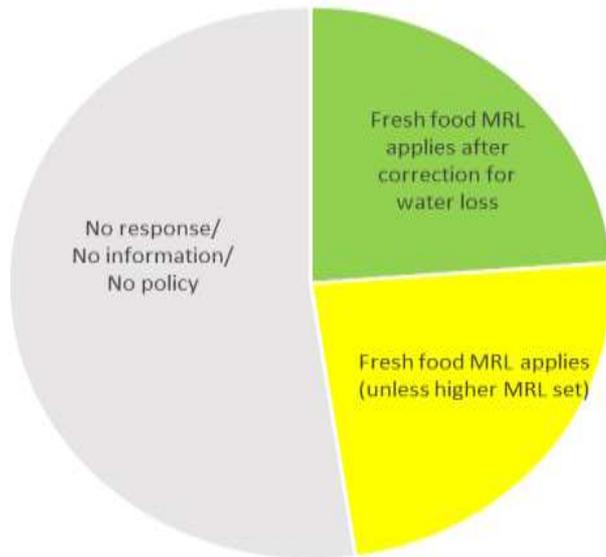
Manufacturer Participation

No authorisation
needed

No authorisation
but need (access
to) full studies

No response/
No information/
No policy

Authorisation
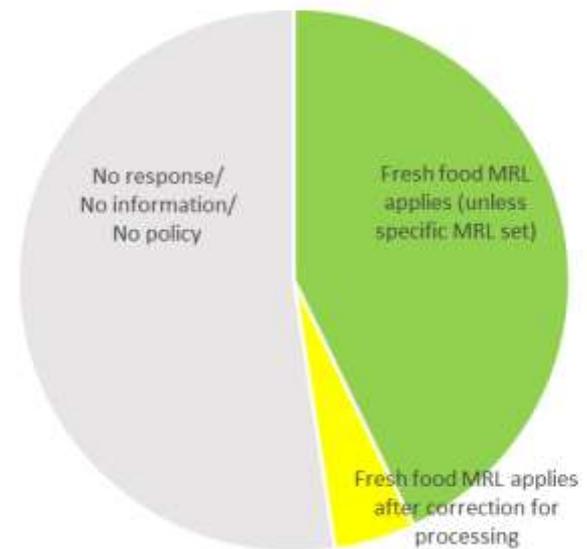needed if product
registered

Authorisation
needed

▪ At least 30% APEC Economies require some form of authorisation from pesticide manufacturers to permit use of 'their' data

MRLs and Processed Foods
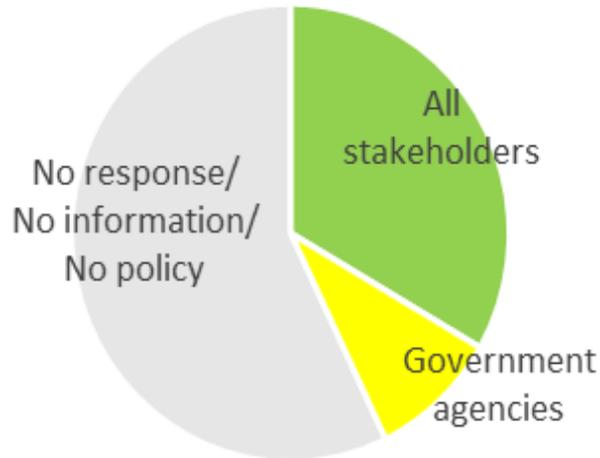

Dried food (e.g. raisins)

- Fresh food MRL applies after correction for water loss
- No response/ No information/ No policy
- Fresh food MRL applies (unless higher MRL set)

Other processed food (e.g. wine)

- No response/ No information/ No policy
- Fresh food MRL applies (unless specific MRL set)
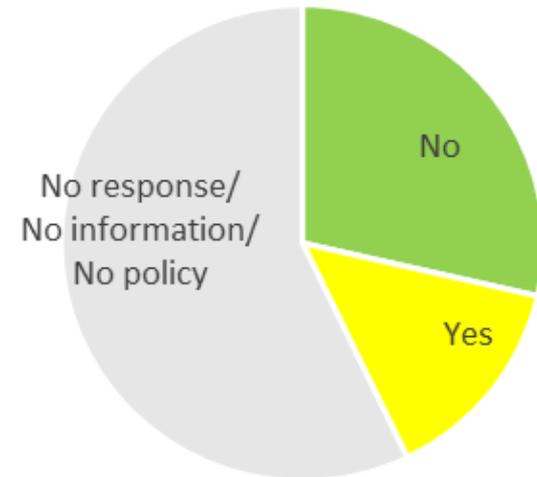- Fresh food MRL applies after correction for processing

- MRLs for fresh food (RAC) generally apply directly to processed food (e.g. wine)

- Some APEC Economies adjust residue levels in dried food to reflect water loss.

Import MRL Procedures

Who can apply for an Import MRL

- All stakeholders
- Government agencies
- No response/ No information/ No policy

Import MRL Application Fee

- No
- Yes
- No response/ No information/ No policy

- Some APEC Economies accept Import MRL submissions only from trading partner government agencies

- Import MRL application fees exist in some APEC Economies

The Pesticide Import MRL Guideline:

- **Is consistent with the Import MRL requirements in at least 25% of APEC Economies**
  - In some cases additional information may be needed (e.g. domestic intake assessments, analytical methods or standards, trade statistics)

- Provides a sound basis for Economies developing their pesticide Import MRL policies

- Has stimulated at least one Economy to consider piloting the Guideline approach for Import MRLs

- The 'Road Test' highlights:
  - The importance of consulting with Importing Economy agencies to confirm the data needed to support an Import MRL request
  - That early involvement of pesticide manufacturers is essential to ensure the required authorisations or additional data are available

Next steps

- Road test the guideline by submitting applications to APEC Economies to test the guideline in a real-life situation

- Underway at the moment