



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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## **Residue Management of Agricultural Chemicals in New Zealand**

Submitted by: New Zealand



**Workshop on a Trade Facilitative  
Approach to Maximum Residue Limit  
Compliance  
Brisbane, Australia  
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New Zealand Food Safety

Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

# Residue Management of Agricultural Chemicals in New Zealand

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# Topics

- **Regulatory Overview**
  - Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997
  - Food Act 2014
  
- **Agricultural Chemical Residue Management and Maximum Residue Levels**

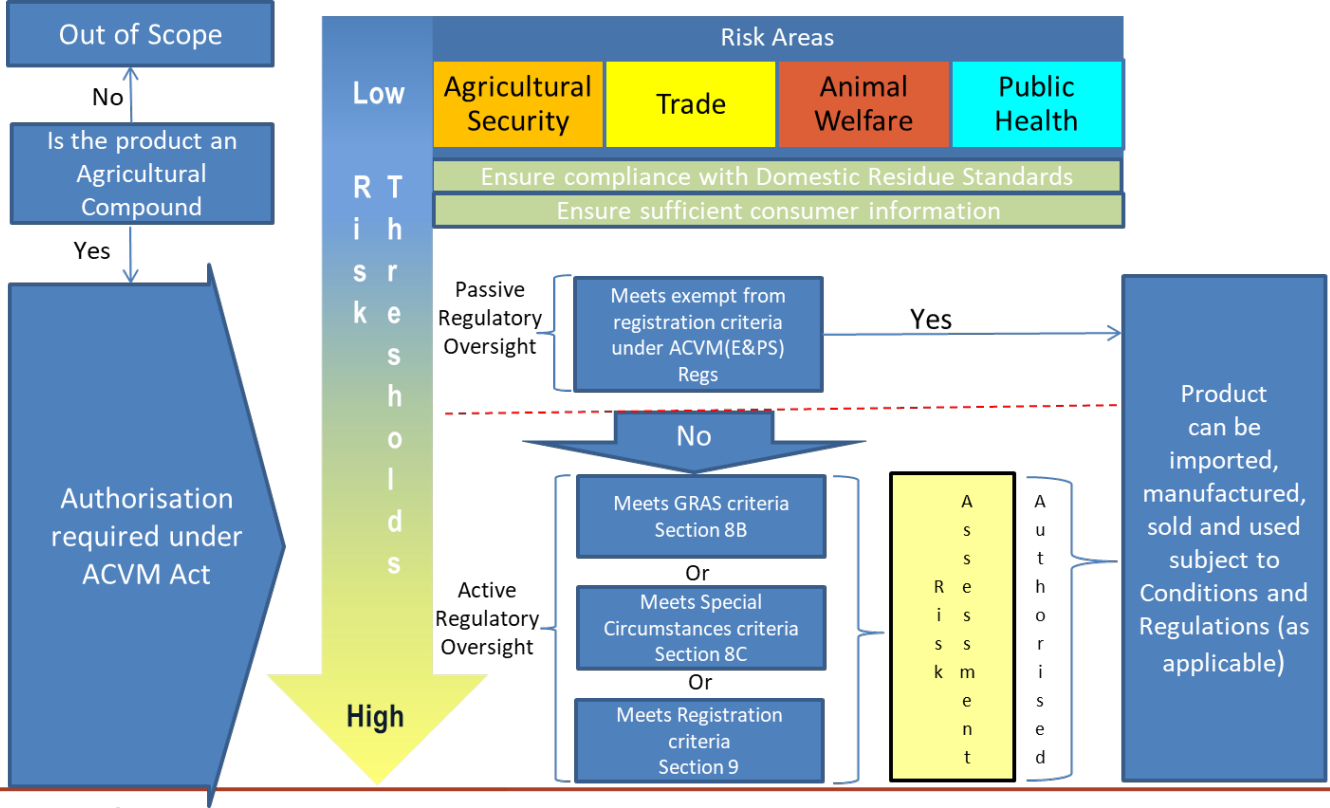


# Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997

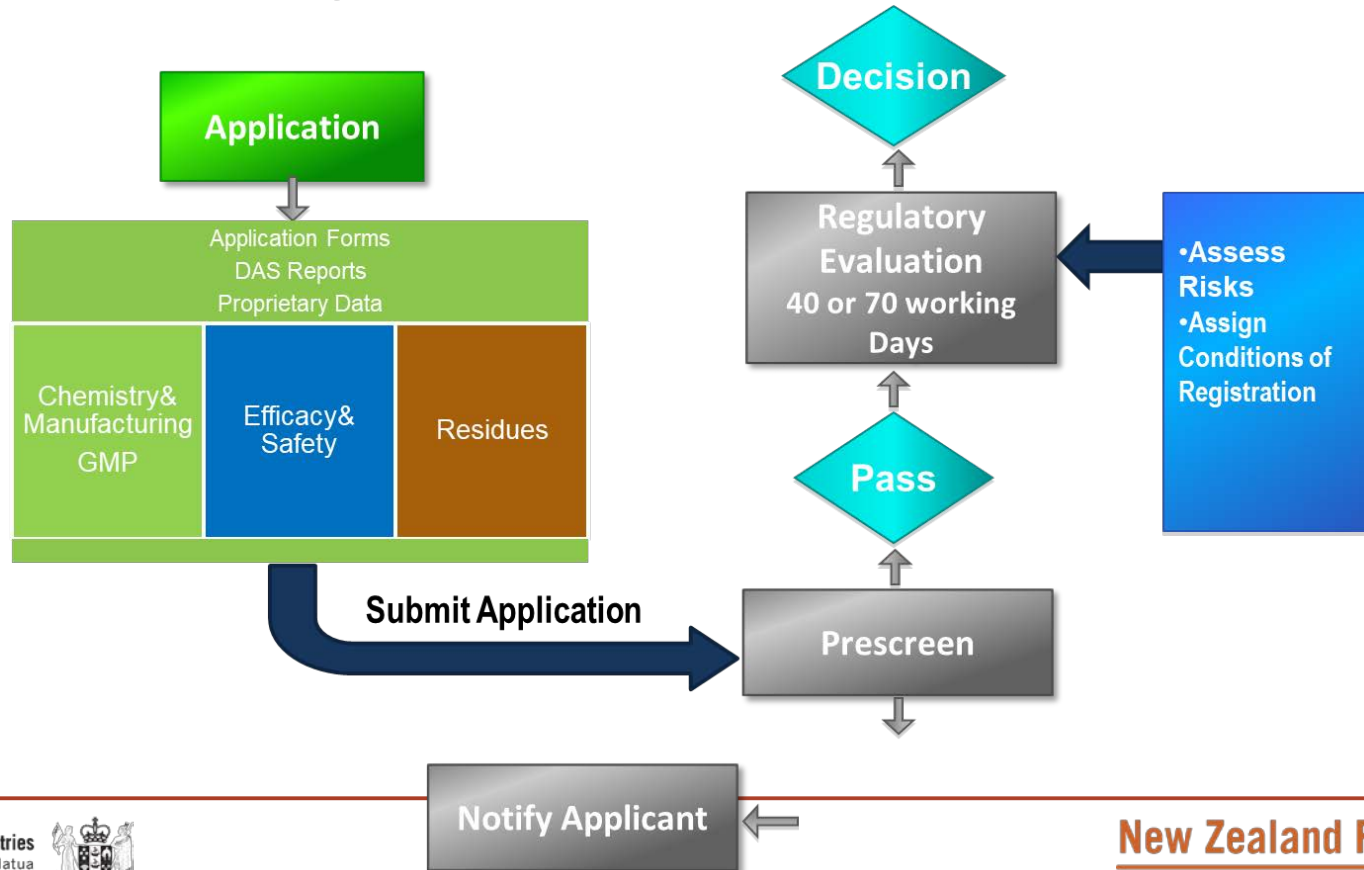
- MPI administers the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997 and the ACVM (Exemptions and Prohibited Substances) Regulations 2011
- The ACVM Act and Regulations manage the importation, manufacture, sale, and use of all veterinary medicines, agricultural chemicals, vertebrate toxic agents, animal feeds, fertilisers etc.



# ACVM Act – Regulatory Framework



# ACVM Act – Registration Flow Chart



# ACVM Act – Efficacy and Residues

## Efficacy

- Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
  - Minimum to do the job
- Trials
  - Number trials not specified
  - Level Control = commercially acceptable level

## Residues

- Reflect GAP
- Trial numbers specified and vary depending on the crop
- MPI incorporates OECD and CCPR guidance documents into our Residue Guidance document



# ACVM Act – Registered Trade Name Products

## Labels must have information on:

- Directions for use (crop, conditions to be treated, application rates, etc)
- Regulatory statements required by registration conditions relating to use
- Withholding period information

## Conditions of Registration

- Most products are not prohibited from being used off label
  - But must comply with the MRL Notice



# Food Act 2014

- Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) set under the Food Act 2014 as a Notice
- Food Regulations 2015 set the rules
- MPI administers the Food Act 2014



# Food Regulations 2015 - Rules

- Relates to definition in the ACVM Act
- Commodity Groupings follow Codex Standard on Food and Animal Feeds
- Portion to be analysed of foods follow Codex Standard
- Processed foods – drying, dehydration and concentration
- Food containing more than one food
- Sum of MRLs by mass of each food
- Information to be included in the Notice



# Food Regulations 2015 - Rules

- Where no MRL established for a agricultural chemical/food commodity then a default MRL applies of 0.1mg/kg
- For imported food it can either apply with:
  - Codex MRL; or
  - NZ MRL Notice; or
  - Default MRL



# Maximum Residue Levels - Criteria

- A new or amended MRL is required when:
  - New active ingredient on any food commodity
  - New food commodity for existing active ingredient
  - Significant change in use (e.g. rate, timing) or Withholding Period for existing ingredient or food commodity
- Most requests for MRLs via applications made under the ACVM Act



# Maximum Residue Levels - Requirements

To determine an MRL:

1. Establish good agricultural practice (GAP) for the agricultural chemical and STMR (Supervised Trial Medium Residue)
2. Under take a dietary intake assessment
3. Trade considerations



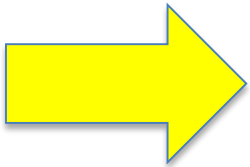
# Maximum Residue Levels – Trade Considerations

- MRLs in other economies are reviewed to ensure the MRL is set at a level that can facilitate trade
  - Especially important for veterinary medicine MRLs
- MPI try to align MRLs where possible while still supporting New Zealand GAP



# Management of Agricultural Chemical Residues

- MRLs are set at a level where residue levels are as low as reasonably achievable to support good methods of food production and minimising risks to public health



MRLs monitor Good Agricultural Practice while ensuring food safety



# Management of Agricultural Chemical Residues

## Default MRL

- Recognises residues can occur where no MRL set
  - Associated with off label use
  - In virtually all situations not a food safety issue
- MRLs are set below the 0.1 mg/kg default to enforce GAP
- If a pesticide could be a food safety issue at a low level, a catch all MRL at a very low level is set



# Management of Agricultural Chemical Residues

## Trade

- New Zealand is a:
  - Significant exporter of food and a significant importer of food
  - Strong supporter of WTO, Codex and other international standards
  
- Residues in food can be a significant trade irritant
  - Codex MRLs manage food safety and facilitate trade



# Management of Agricultural Chemical Residues

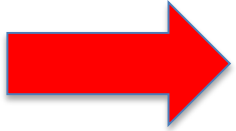
## Risk Management

- Factors to consider:
  - Is there a food safety issue?
  - Level of regulatory intervention
- Rely on the Regulatory Regime
  - Performance based verification



# MRL Paradigm

- Exceedance of MRLs in virtual all instances is not a food safety issue



However it is a significant risk communication issue

- Why
  - A MRL is equated solely to being a health standard
- Use a different MRL Paradigm
  - Differentiate between a health standard and enforcing GAP



# New Zealand Food Safety

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Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

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