

# Member Update

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**TOPIC: Taiwan Glyphosate Joint Industry Communication**

**DISTRIBUTION: GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.**



## 1. Purpose

To raise member's awareness of Taiwan market access requirements for Glyphosate.

## 2. Background

### Reminder on Market Requirements for Glyphosate

The Australian grain industry is heavily reliant on export markets. It is not unusual for export country chemical Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) to not align with Australian MRLs. The supply of commodities requires industry wide management to ensure we continue to meet regulatory requirements for MRLs both domestically and internationally.

### Key Points

1. Taiwan does not have an MRL for glyphosate on these specific cereal commodities (barley, oats and sorghum) hence an MRL of 0mg/kg applies.
2. Taiwan has a glyphosate MRL of 2mg/kg on mung beans.
3. Industry needs to continue to be mindful of the adequacy of their management system to select stock for shipment to Taiwan to meet their MRLs for all commodities and chemicals.

### Taiwan Regulations

The Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) maintains a national MRL regulation, listing MRLs that apply to various commodities. The TFDA monitors imported foods, including grain shipments, for pesticide residues. The rate of monitoring imports depends on a range of factors, including an annual inspection plan and previous import violations from specific exporters or the exporting country.

## **Taiwan Notification of MRL Violations**

As with some other markets, Taiwan's TFDA publishes on-line the individual results of consignments which have been found to violate their MRLs. In recent months, as well as commodities from other origins, Australian sorghum and mung bean consignments have been detected with glyphosate residues above the respective MRL.

As per their inspection regime regulations, the exporter and/or Australian government may be required to provide documentation explaining those violations. More significantly, Taiwan may ask for details of management plans to prevent future violations in consignments.

Depending on the outcome of review of that documentation, imports may at worst, be suspended from Australia.

## **Bulk Handling Company and Exporter Responsibility**

It is understood that the exporters involved in the above consignments are addressing the issues as raised by Taiwan. This notice is a reminder to all involved in exports to Taiwan (and all other markets), of the need to comply with each markets MRLs for all commodities and chemicals.

As per the Australian grain industry Code of Practice for the management of grain along the supply chain, section 2.4.1 "As required by legislation industry will not trade (i.e., supply) in grain on the domestic or export market that contains a chemical in violation of relevant legislation".

All marketers and grain traders should implement appropriate management systems to meet market MRLs. This may include the use of Commodity Vendor Declarations (CVD), segregation, sampling and testing prior to outturn, and judicious stock selection. For GTA Members, it is mandatory to be involved in the National Residue Survey program. Industry should continue to carefully monitor and manage stocks to ensure that Australian grain continues to meet export requirements, thereby ensuring exports can continue for the benefit of the Australian grains industry.

## **Grower Market Awareness**

Recent results of the National Residue Survey program show a high level of compliance with MRLs, indicating a high level of grower compliance with chemical label directions.

It is understood that for some commodities such as sorghum, chemicals including glyphosate are a valuable tool in managing the growing crop, thereby producing not only a profitable crop but also a quality product that meets market requirements.

In the case of exports to Taiwan, there may not be an awareness of the MRLs that apply in that market. Further information on the use of glyphosate on commodities to be exported to Taiwan would assist industry compliance with MRLs.

"The industry in consultation with the Australian government continues to explore future opportunity as Taiwan programs allow to establish a glyphosate MRL import tolerance for these crops aligned with international standards, however at this time options available for submissions are limited."

Other chemical options for use by growers to replace the reliance on compounds such as glyphosate will also be explored in the near future. In the interim, marketers and Bulk Handling Companies are encouraged to liaise with growers advising of potential markets and restrictions that may apply to use of particular chemicals

## **3. Further reading**

<https://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-codes> Code of Practice

<https://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp/mrls> Advice on MRLs that apply by market

<https://www.grainproducers.com.au/australian-grains-guide> Australian Grains Guide, Growing Australian Grain  
For Further Information contact Gerard McMullen, Chair NWPGP, [gerard@mcmullengrainagricultural.com](mailto:gerard@mcmullengrainagricultural.com)