



**Proven expertise in
database analysis,
toxicology and
residue levels**

International MRL Setting and Import Tolerances

Paving your way to international
markets

With growing interdependence of international food markets, harmonised international standards for **Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)** gain importance and enable fair global trade of safe food.

What is MRL?

MRL is “the highest amount of pesticide residue legally tolerated in or on food or feed when pesticides are applied correctly (Good Agricultural Practice)”. MRLs essentially ensure residue levels remaining in food are safe for consumers and as low as technically possible.

In the EU, the basic rules for MRL setting are covered by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 and its numerous amendments. EU legislation harmonises and simplifies pesticide MRLs by setting a common EU assessment scheme for all agricultural products for food and animal feed.

Many countries worldwide rely on the **Codex Alimentarius MRLs** (Codex MRLs, CXL) for a wide variety of pesticides. Codex MRLs are intended to reduce trade barriers enabling worldwide trade of safe products. They are set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), an intergovernmental body responsible for the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

In recent years, there have been ongoing revisions of existing food standards programmes and the establishment of national MRLs in a variety of countries around the world. National MRLs however, may differ, which can be

challenging for manufacturers and exporters of food commodities treated with locally certified pesticides, which are not necessarily approved for use in their target markets. For example, if a plant protection product is marketed within the EU, the maximum residue levels are not allowed to exceed the EU-MRL, even if the Codex MRL might be higher.

Import Tolerances (IT)

An Import Tolerance (IT) is an MRL set by an importing country/region to facilitate international trade. Import tolerances can be requested by manufacturers of plant protection products, growers/producers or importers, if the imported commodity:

- Contains residues of an active substance allowed in the import country or region, but where the commodity is not produced in that country or region (for example, pineapples imported to the EU).
- Is treated with an active substance no longer or not yet allowed in the import country or region.
- Is treated with a substance allowed in the import country or region, but where the GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) registered in the exporting country is likely to result in a higher residue than the GAPs of the import country.

Please visit our website for more information:

<https://www.scc-gmbh.de/scientific-regulatory-services/maximum-residue-levels>

or contact one of our experts:

scc@scc-gmbh.de

Our expertise

Our profound long-term knowledge of registration processes and associated data requirements in global key markets allows us to successfully handle all kinds of MRL and IT applications.

These include:

- MRL applications for crops traded within the EU
- MRL applications for imported products to meet the level of international trade, such as Import Tolerance applications
- Setting worldwide MRLs, i.e. Codex Alimentarius MRLs.

Our customers benefit from profound regulatory and scientific expertise which we offer in all disciplines relevant for MRL setting and IT – analytics, toxicology, residues.

Over the years, we have built a strong international network of recognised regulatory partners and established our contacts in the competent authorities across the world to guarantee our customers widespread and qualified support for MRL setting and IT in their target markets.

Our Services

Our team of professionals draw on their hands-on experience to offer you a full range of services to obtain Codex MRL and Import Tolerance applications. Following detailed analyses of your data and situation, we work out individual solutions tailored to your needs, including:

- Detailed analysis of databases and resulting data gap analysis
- Risk assessments based on state-of-the-art models
- Planning and monitoring of studies
- Compilation of regulatory documents and dossier preparation
- Communication and data management
- Dossier submission, follow-up and defence of compounds

SCC is your reliable partner with a long-standing knowledge and hands-on experience of the regulatory environment on the EU and international level, skilled to guide you through ever increasing and differing requirements, providing cost-efficient solutions tailored to your needs.

