

INDUSTRY - AGVET CHEMICALS

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked, how can people be certain their food remains safe to consume following the APVMA's decision to increase the allowable maximum residue limit (MRL) of isocycloseram?

- On June 16 2026, the APVMA proposed an increase to the MRL for the pesticide isocycloseram.
- Maximum Residue Levels are set at levels that pose no risk to human health.

Contact Officer: Guy Bursle

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 47F(1)

Responsible Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries, Forestry and Strategic Division
QB26-000012

Date updated: 11 August 2026

- True safety limits are based on human health and are called Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) or Acute Reference Dose (ARfD). MRLs are set far, far below these health limits.
- The ADI is established with a further safety factor of 100 times from where any observed adverse effect could occur.
- In developing the proposal, the APVMA considered a complete, high-quality data package that met international standards, both for registered uses and approved permits.
- These levels are based on conservative assumptions, including people eating treated foods every day over a lifetime. Even then, the assessment showed no safety concern.
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) independently reviewed the dietary exposure assessment and agreed that consumer exposure to isocycloseram is acceptable.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer: Guy Bursle

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 47F(1)

Responsible Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries, Forestry and Strategic Division
QB26-000012

Date updated: 11 August 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 9:49 AM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Isocycloseram residues on berries [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Media words on isocycloseram.docx; MB26-000258.docx

OFFICIAL

Amazing – thanks so much for turning this around so quickly!!

Have a great day

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 9:45 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @aff.gov.au>
Subject: Isocycloseram residues on berries [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached words on isocycloseram.

Also attached is an information brief we did for the AMO.

Let me know if you need anything else.

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1) | **Director & Chief Sustainability Officer**

Executive Support Office
Business Enabling Services Branch
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
GPO Box 574, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

P: s 47F(1) | **M:** s 47F(1)
s 47F(1) | apvma.gov.au



The APVMA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

Classification: OFFICIAL

Important Notice: This email remains the property of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and is intended only for use by the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this email by mistake, please advise the sender and delete the message and attachments immediately. This email, including attachments, may contain personal, confidential, sensitive, legally privileged and/or copyright information.

Unsolicited commercial emails MUST NOT be sent to the originator of this email.

OFFICIAL

Statement on media enquiry re isocycloseram

Maximum Residue Levels are set at levels that pose no risk to human health.

True safety limits are based on human health and are called Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) or Acute Reference Dose (ARfD). MRLs are set far, far below these health limits.

The international system in which Australia's regulation sits, involves many layers of safety margins and a single reference to an amount or level (such as '500-fold') can be misleading as it does not reflect those compounded degrees of protection.

Exposure in the real world would be hundreds or thousands of times lower than what is assumed for the sake of assessment under worst case scenarios.

Safety assessments are based on the entire consumption of the chemical from all use patterns, assuming the person is consuming every single item on a list (in this case, a list of 39 foods) every day of their lives and assuming that every one of those foods has been treated with this chemical. This is known as the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI). The list of foods for [isocycloseram](#), is linked here.

The ADI is established with a further safety factor of 100 times from where any observed adverse effect could occur.

Before an agricultural chemical can be approved for use, companies must submit an extensive package of data from toxicity studies. These studies test a wide range of doses, from very low to extremely high, so it's possible to identify the point at which harmful effects begin to occur.

To inform APVMA's initial registration decision on isocycloseram, a complete high quality data package was supplied that met international standards.

The APVMA conducted a scientific assessment of the studies of toxicity of isocycloseram. This document is publicly available at [Public Release Summary on the evaluation of the active constituent isocycloseram in the product Simodis Plinazolin Technology Insecticide | Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#)

Based on the intended uses in accordance with the strict directions on the label, the APVMA was satisfied that the product would not be harmful to people, animals or the environment.

The health-related conclusions outlined in the public summary remain valid for the approved minor use in berries.

The APVMA used expected residue levels in berries and assessed them against safe dietary levels. These assessments were based on the latest Australian berry consumption data, applying internationally recognised methodologies. The dietary

exposure assessments were verified by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSAANZ).

The APVMA is satisfied that treated berries are safe for all consumers.

Environment

Environmental risks associated with the chemical were considered and reflected in the Public Release Summary (linked above).

Due to its high persistence in soil, the environmental assessment considered potential accumulation of residues in agricultural soil over several years of use.

Using this scenario, acceptable risks to non-target species were determined and restrictions were identified to mitigate risks of runoff to aquatic species. These restrictions appear on the registered product labels.

Other studies demonstrated no adverse effects on bees or their colonies, when used in accordance with the directions.

OECD

The APVMA's most senior scientists hold formal positions on multiple OECD bodies involved in the international regulation of agricultural chemicals.

Draft media “grabs” on Isocycloseram Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

- A 500-fold increase sounds dramatic, but it does not mean a 500-fold increase in risk. The safety assessment shows treated berries remain safe for consumers.
- MRLs are not health limits. They are residue limits, and they sit far below the levels that would raise a human health concern.
- These levels are based on conservative assumptions, including people eating treated foods every day over a lifetime. Even then, the assessment showed no safety concern.
- The MRL was assessed using Australian consumption data and checked against health-based safety standards. The result was clear – there is no consumer safety concern.
- The APVMA only approves uses where the science shows they are safe when products are used according to the label.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

PDR: MB26-000258

To: Assistant Minister Chisholm

ISSUE: INFORMATION REQUEST – DECISIONS REGARDING HIGHER LEVELS OF ISOCYCLOSERAM RESIDUES ON BERRIES

KEY POINTS

- Before an agricultural chemical can be approved, companies must provide the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) with a comprehensive package of scientific data, including toxicity, metabolism, residues and environmental studies.
- The APVMA generally requires exposure-related studies supporting product registration that comply with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) or equivalent standards.
- GLP compliant studies help to ensure that non-clinical safety studies are conducted, recorded and reported to recognised international standards, providing confidence to international regulators that the studies are reliable, independently verifiable and suitable for assessing risks to human health and the environment.
- A Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) is a regulatory limit that supports food safety, trade and compliance. An MRL cannot be proposed or established if it does not comply with food safety, trade or compliance standards. Before any MRL is supported, the APVMA must assess whether expected residues from a proposed use pattern are safe for consumers.
- The APVMA considers dietary exposure for all consumers, including sensitive population groups. MRLs are only supported where expected residues in food do not pose a risk to human health when products are used according to label directions.
- Consumer safety is assessed against health-based guidance values, the Acceptable Daily Intake and the Acute Reference Dose. These values are based on the levels at which no harmful effects are observed in the toxicology studies and include additional safety factors to ensure all consumers are protected.
- For isocycloseram, the APVMA has considered a complete, high-quality data package that met international standards, both for registered uses and approved permits. Expected residues in food were assessed using Australian consumption data and internationally recognised methods for both long term exposure over a lifetime and short-term exposure following a single meal and/or amount consumed in a single day.

- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) independently reviewed the dietary exposure assessment and agreed that consumer exposure to isocycloseram is acceptable.
- The APVMA applied the requirements of Australia's agricultural chemical regulatory framework and was satisfied that the proposed use met all statutory safety criteria for protection of human health.
- On this basis, the APVMA is satisfied that treated food is safe for all consumers, including pregnant people, infants and young children.

BACKGROUND / SENSITIVITIES

- Isocycloseram has been permitted for chilli thrips control in berries since April 2024. The original permit allowed two pre-flowering applications at 30 g ai/ha applied before flowering, with residues expected to be less than 0.01 mg/kg.
- The new permit keeps the same rate and number of applications but allows use up to one day before harvest. The later application timing increases the residue potential and requires higher MRLs for the relevant berry subgroups.
- Industry requested the permit because growers have limited close-to-harvest control options following the chemical reconsideration of dimethoate use late last year, and noting that chilli thrips can cause significant berry crop damage and yield loss.
- Industry also advised the pest is mainly an issue in Western Australia, where berry production is a small share of national production, and the treated area is expected to be less than 1,000 hectares.
- Under the Agvet Code, the APVMA must be satisfied that proposed uses are safe for consumers, supported by dietary exposure assessments.
- Under section 82 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*, the APVMA must provide FSANZ with the dietary exposure assessment and obtain FSANZ's agreement that expected residues are safe.
- The correspondence reflects broader community concerns about pesticide residues in food, including whether regulatory decisions adequately consider cumulative and long-term exposure. The correspondent also raises concerns about potential links between pesticide exposure and chronic health conditions. APVMA decisions are based on chemical-specific scientific assessments, dietary exposure modelling, and established health-based guidance values.

Contact officer:	s 47F(1) A/g Executive Director Agricultural Chemicals Ph: s 47F(1)	Clearance officer: Date:	Scott Hansen Chief Executive Officer APVMA Ph: s 47F(1) 28/07/2026
-------------------------	--	---	--

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MB26-000288

To: Julie Collins**MEETING WITH SENATOR THORPE****Timing:** For meeting on Monday 17 August 2026, 3:30PM – 4:00PM**Location:** Parliament House, Canberra**Meeting with:** Senator Lidia Thorpe**Departmental official in attendance:** Sarah-Jane McCormack, First Assistant Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry**Prior meetings:** Nil known

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Clearing Officer:	Sarah-Jane McCormack	First Assistant Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Ph: s 47F(1) Mob: s 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s 47F(1)	A/g Assistant Secretary, Agvet Chemicals and Forestry Branch	Ph: s 47F(1) Mob: s 47F(1)

4. The APVMA relies on the US EPA working definition for PFAS compounds. Out of more than 600 active constituents currently used in APVMA registered agricultural chemical (pesticide) products, there are only 7 that meet the US EPA PFAS definition. Less than 10 registered products contain non-active ingredients that meet the definition.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Consultation: NIL

Attachments

A: Talking Points

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MB26-000288

Attachment A

TALKING POINTS

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

How can Australian consumers feel safe from PFAS if the APVMA is proposing to increase the maximum residue limits (MRLs) for isocycloseram?

- I understand there is public concern following the APVMA's proposal to conditionally change the MRLs for isocycloseram.
- The APVMA's proposal is intended to enable effective chemical use for producers without increasing the risk from chemical exposure to consumers.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

- While isocycloseram can be classified as a PFAS due to containing carbon-fluorine bonds, it possesses different chemical properties to the PFAS banned by the Australian Government, including less resistance to degradation.
- In developing the proposal, the APVMA considered a complete, high-quality data package that met international standards, both for registered uses and approved permits.
- These levels are based on conservative assumptions, including people eating treated foods every day over a lifetime. Even then, the assessment showed no safety concern.
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) independently reviewed the dietary exposure assessment and agreed that consumer exposure to isocycloseram is acceptable.

Background

- PFAS are a broad group of chemicals which possess carbon-fluorine bonds which are resistant to degradation. Many of these chemicals are utilised primarily as a heat and chemical resistant surface coating (PFOS, PFOA, and PFHxS of primary concern). Some classifications of PFAS are broad enough to include a small number of chemicals with agricultural uses.
- PFAS may also enter agricultural systems through fertilizers produced from contaminated wastewater. Once present, they can remain in topsoil enabling potential contamination of crops and livestock.
- FSANZ has not established maximum residue limits for PFAS in food as the potential for exposure to contaminated food in Australia is considered very low.
- PFAS, such as PFOS, PFOA, and PFHxS, have been identified as a risk to human and environmental health as they're not readily broken down by natural mechanisms, resulting in accumulation. In humans, accumulation of these PFAS has been linked to several potential health impacts.
- The Australian Government is committed to phasing out the use of PFAS that pose a risk to the environment and human health. As of 1 July 2025, the manufacture and importation of the three most prevalent PFAS (perfluorooctane sulfonate, perfluorooctanoic acid, and perfluorohexane sulfonate) found in the Australian environment has been banned.
- Chemicals are regulated under both state and territory, and Commonwealth laws. At the national level, chemicals are regulated by different regulatory authorities according to their use. PFAS that have industrial uses are regulated by the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme, while the APVMA regulates those that are agvet chemicals.
- PFAS contamination is being managed broadly, with environmental impacts primarily being managed by DCEEW.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

- The PFAS NCB arose from the government's response from the *Independent Review of land uses around key Defence bases impacted by PFAS contamination* (March 2024). It met for the first time on 10 November 2025. More information about the PFAS NCB can be found on its [webpage](#) or by searching PFAS NCB.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)