

Amendments to the APVMA MRL Standard

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) approves maximum residue limits (MRLs) of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in agricultural produce, particularly produce entering the food chain. The MRLs approved by the APVMA are associated with a regulatory decision to register a product, grant a permit approval, or as an outcome from a review decision and are set out in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (MRL Standard for Residues of Chemical Products) Instrument 2023*. The *MRL Standard* lists MRLs of substances that may arise from the approved use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products containing those substances on commodities used for human consumption as well as livestock feeds. The *MRL Standard* also provides the relevant residue definitions to which these MRLs apply. There may be situations where the residue definition for monitoring and enforcement is different to the definition used for dietary risk assessment purposes.

MRLs are set at levels which are not likely to be exceeded if the agricultural or veterinary chemicals are used in accordance with approved label instructions. In considering MRLs and variation to MRLs, the APVMA takes into account studies on chemistry, metabolism, analytical methodology, residues, toxicology, good agricultural practice and dietary exposure. In approving MRLs, the APVMA is satisfied, from dietary exposure assessment, that the levels set are not an undue hazard to human health.

The APVMA has amended the *MRL Standard* and the changes will have affect the day after the instrument is registered.

Details of the amendment can be found in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (MRL Standard for Residues of Chemical Products) Amendment Instrument (No. 5) 2025*.

The amendments will be incorporated into the compilation of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (MRL Standard for Residues of Chemical Products) Instrument 2023*.

The MRL Standard is accessible via the [Federal Register of Legislation website](#).

For further information please contact:

MRL Contact Officer
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
GPO Box 574
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: +61 2 6770 2300

Email: enquiries@apvma.gov.au

Proposal to amend the Maximum Residue Limits Standard under the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code

The APVMA is proposing to vary the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 20 – Maximum residue limits (Maximum Residue Limits Standard) under section 82 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act). The variation, made through the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 20 – Maximum residue limits Variation Instrument No. APVMA 5 2025 (Amendment Instrument), prescribes a maximum residue limit (MRL) for florfenicol use in Atlantic Salmon. Based on dietary exposure assessments and current health standards, the APVMA and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) are satisfied that the MRL will not be harmful to human health or raise safety concerns.

The Maximum Residue Limits Standard prescribes MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals that may legitimately occur in foods. By this means, the Maximum Residue Limits Standard permits the sale of treated foods and protects public health by minimising residues in foods consistent with the effective control of pests and diseases.

The agreement between the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government concerning a Joint Food Standards System excludes MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food from the system setting joint food standards. Australia and New Zealand independently and separately develop MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food.

The APVMA ran a public consultation through a Trade Advice Notice on florfenicol for emergency use on Atlantic salmon between 8 October and 22 October 2025. Four submissions were received and considered in making the amendments to the MRL. Further information on this consultation is provided on the APVMA's website: apvma.gov.au.

The APVMA also made a Sanitary and Phytosanitary notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to the variation to the MRL for florfenicol to include Atlantic Salmon in the Maximum Residue Limits Standard. No consultation period was considered necessary through the WTO noting the variation was trade facilitative.

The APVMA considers the public consultation undertaken in October and consultation through the WTO as sufficient to support the making of the Amendment Instrument and, noting the urgent and minor nature of the variation, is not proposing to undertake public consultation on the proposed variation instrument.

The proposed variation is provided for information below.

Further information

For further information please contact:

MRL Contact Officer
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
GPO Box 574
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: +61 2 6770 2300

Email: enquiries@apvma.gov.au

Proposed variation to Schedule 20 in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

25 November 2025

Note: Subsection 82(2) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* provides that variations to standards are legislative instruments, but are not subject to disallowance or sunseting.

To commence: on gazettal of variation

Schedule 20 Maximum Residue Limits

[1] Section S20—3 (table entry for Agvet chemical: Florfenicol)

Insert:

Salmon, Atlantic

T1

Variations to the Maximum Residue Limits Standard under the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code

In accordance with subsection 82(7) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act) the APVMA is publishing a copy of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 20 – Maximum residue limits Variation Instrument No. APVMA 5, 2025 (Amendment Instrument).

The APVMA may make variations to maximum residue limits (MRLs) prescribed in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 20 – Maximum residue limits (Maximum Residue Limits Standard) under subsection 82(1) of the FSANZ Act.

The Maximum Residue Limits Standard prescribes MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals that may legitimately occur in foods. By this means, the Maximum Residue Limits Standard permits the sale of treated foods and protects public health by minimising residues in foods consistent with the effective control of pests and diseases.

The Amendment Instrument prescribes a MRL for florfenicol in Atlantic Salmon. Based on dietary exposure assessments and current health standards, the APVMA and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) are satisfied that the MRL will not be harmful to human health or raise safety concerns.

The APVMA ran a public consultation through a Trade Advice Notice on florfenicol for emergency use on Atlantic salmon between 8 October and 22 October 2025. The APVMA received 4 submissions, all of which were considered and resolved before making the Amendment Instrument. Further information on this consultation is provided on the APVMA's website: apvma.gov.au.

The APVMA also made a Sanitary and Phytosanitary notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to the variation to the MRL for florfenicol to include Atlantic Salmon in the Maximum Residue Limits Standard. No consultation period was considered necessary through the WTO noting the variation was trade facilitative.

The APVMA considers the public consultation undertaken in October and consultation through the WTO as sufficient to support the making of the Amendment Instrument and, noting the urgent and minor nature of the variation, is not proposing to undertake public consultation on the proposed variation instrument.

The agreement between the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government concerning a Joint Food Standards System, excludes MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food from the system setting joint food standards. Australia and New Zealand independently and separately develop MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food.

A copy of the Amendment Instrument has been given to FSANZ, in accordance with subsection 82(6) of the FSANZ Act. The Amendment Instrument will also be registered on the Federal Register of Legislation, in accordance with subsection 82(7) of the FSANZ Act.

The Amendment Instrument commences on the date of gazettal, in accordance with subsection 82(8) of the FSANZ Act. For a complete copy of the Maximum Residue Limits Standard, please refer to the [Federal Register of Legislation](#).

For further information please contact:

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Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
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Email: enquiries@apvma.gov.au



Australian Government

**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

Australia New Zealand
Food Standards Code —
Schedule 20 — Maximum residue limits Variation
Instrument No. APVMA 5, 2025

I, Edward Cram, Executive Director, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, acting in accordance with my powers delegated to me under subsection 11(1) of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992*, make this instrument for the purposes of subsection 82(1) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*.

Edward Cram
Executive Director, Agricultural Chemicals, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines
Authority

Dated this twenty first day of November 2025

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code — Schedule 20 — Maximum residue limits Variation Instrument No. APVMA 5, 2025* (Amendment Instrument).

2 Commencement

In accordance with subsection 82(8) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*, this instrument commences on the day it is published in the *Gazette*.

Note: A copy of the variations made by the Variation Instrument was published in the Commonwealth of Australia Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Gazette.

3 Object

The object of this instrument is for the APVMA to make variations to Schedule 20 — Maximum residue limits in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* to include or change maximum residue limits pertaining to florfenicol.

4 Interpretation

In this instrument: —

APVMA means the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority established by section 6 of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992*; and

Principal Instrument means Schedule 20 — Maximum residue limits in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standard Code* as defined in Section 4 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* being the Code published in *Gazette* No. P 27 on 27 August 1987 together with any amendments of the standards in that Code. Schedule 20 was published in the *Food Standards Gazette* FSC 96 on Thursday 10 April 2015 and was registered as a legislative instrument on 1 April 2015 (F2015L00468).

Part 2 Variations to Schedule 20— Maximum Residue Limits

5 Variations to Schedule 20

The Schedule to this instrument sets out the variations made to the Principal Instrument by this instrument.

Schedule

Variations to Schedule 20 – Maximum residue limits

Schedule 20 Maximum Residue Limits

[1] Section S20—3 (table entry for Agvet chemical: Florfenicol)

Insert:

Salmon, Atlantic

T1