

Fresh Produce Specialists

Exporting to Canada?
Our team is prepared to help our growers!



What You Need to Know About Methomyl

Growers exporting to Canada should be aware of changes to methomyl limits that have recently been imposed by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) under the authority of the Canadian Pest Control Products Act. The PMRA dropped the MRL for methomyl from 0.1 ppm (Default MRL) to 0.01 ppm. However, for products that meet the new standards, PMRA is granting continued registration of products containing methomyl for sale and use in Canada.

Methomyl is a broad-spectrum, carbamate insecticide. Methomyl's half-life on produce is between 1-7 days. However, the 1-7 days is an overall, one-size-fits-all half-life range for that particular pesticide in all settings. It is important to remember that the half-life is a property of the pesticide itself (in this case methomyl), not the commodity. Therefore, the half-life of methomyl varies by commodity. Variations in that half-life number range are also affected by factors such as weather and the amount of irrigation water.

Since little notification was given prior to the Canadian government's policy change, growers with product bound for Canada may already have applied methomyl to their crops. Here's what you need to know if you have applied methomyl to produce and plan to export to Canada.

- The differences in methomyl half-life for specific commodities are largely unknown. Depending on commodity, is it closer to 1 day or 7? We just don't know.
- Crops can become within tolerance anywhere from 5-28 days.
- Testing can be used to monitor tolerances on crops.
- The 5-28 days is the time needed to take the methomyl concentration from 0.10 ppm (the old limit) to under 0.01 ppm (the new limit). So the 5-28 days assumes that the commodity is testing at exactly at 0.10 ppm on day 0. It is more likely the actual concentration will be lower than 0.10 ppm as growers generally don't take their pesticide levels all the way up to tolerance levels. Since levels will probably be below tolerance on day 0, initial testing numbers will likely be within a range of 0.02 and 0.03 ppm methomyl, which would have been well within the old tolerance, but will exceed the new one.

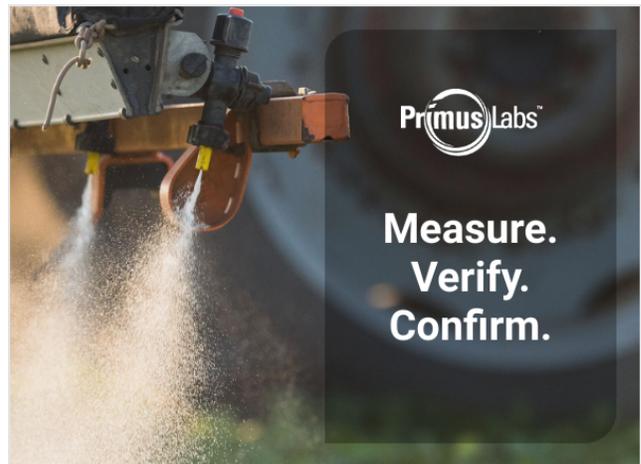


Our technical food safety experts and industry stakeholders work tirelessly to provide the tools you need to keep your programs and your suppliers compliant.



Recommended Course of Action: For product that is already in the field, PrimusLabs recommends an initial field test for methomyl, then a re-evaluation from there. If you have reached or are approaching 0.10 ppm or above, you may not be able to wait 5-28 days and could need to make other arrangements for the crop. If you are closer to the 0.01 ppm, then continued monitoring in the form of testing can give an accurate picture of when that crop is actually ready for export.

If you plan to continue using methomyl on Canadian exports in the future, we recommend early testing, so that we can help you to pinpoint application schedules to keep your products well under tolerance levels.



For more information about methomyl or any other pesticides, as well as importation MRLs for Canada or any other country of destination, contact PrimusLabs at sales@primuslabs.com or at 805.922.0055.

REFERENCES

World Health Organization. (1995) Methomyl Health And Safety Guide - Health And Safety Guide 97 United Nations Environment Programme; International Labour Organisation. Geneva.

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Santa Maria, CA - 805.922.0055
Salinas, CA - 831.424.7488
Yuma, AZ - 928.726.9883
Lakeland, FL - 863.337.6300



Culiacán, MX - 667.716.5077
Mexicali, MX - 686.592.5032
Irapuato, MX - 462.607.1267
Guadalajara, MX - 332.464.6028