

# Update on MRL Harmonization Situation for Hops

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**CCPR 2025:** The Regulatory Harmonization Commission aims to collaboratively approach the harmonization of pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) and other trade concerns for the international hop industry. In September Maggie Elliot traveled to Chile for the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, which serves as a body that sets international food standards aligned with World Health Organization recommendations. Maggie participated as an observer on behalf of the IHGC to support the interests of the global hop industry. At the 2025 CCPR meeting other international commodity organizations agreed a formal stance on channels of trade language would be useful for trade standards. We will continue to collaborate on this issue to strengthen all partners in the world hop industry and set a precedent all hops compliantly produced or imported would remain legal in an exporting nation even if a standard changes in the future.

**Other News:** At the meeting CCPR meeting, Azoxystrobin was established on hops at 40 ppm.

Since the August IHGC meeting, clofentezine (Apollo) has been approved in Japan at 7 ppm and Korea has approved MRLs for cyantraniliprole (Exirel/Verimark) at 10 ppm as well as spinetoram (Delegate/Radiant) at 10 ppm.

Both the US and respective EU industries additionally provided case studies in response to the EU's call for evidence to support its Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus Initiative, both supporting channels of trade language. The United States submitted a case study regarding the disrupting consequences of bifenazate as an example, and the European Union hop group used dimethomorph as the case study supporting channels of trade language.

**Tariffs:** In the last half year, tariff threats imposed by the Trump Administration have ignited headlines and proved to be a rollercoaster for many agricultural products. While a handful of countries still remain tenuously in the cross hairs of the U.S. government as potential tariff targets, the pace of announcements has slowed considerably. As of the IHGC meeting on November 24, the notable tariffs on US hops imported to the following countries include:

Brazil: Brazil has a 7.2% tariff on all U.S. hop products

China: As of November 10, and set to be in place for one-year, whole cone hops have a 35% tariff, hop pellets have a 40% tariff, and hop extract has a 32.5% tariff. *Before the U.S. – China Economic Trade Deal, tariffs had reached between 147.5%-155% for US hop products.*

India - 30% on all hop products.

United Kingdom – 4% on all hop products.

EU Hops Now Taxed: Additionally, on August 7 as part of the EU-US trade deal, the United States placed a standard tariff rate of 15% on most goods coming from the European Union. This development significantly impacts the global movement of hops, as all hops imported into the U.S. from the EU will now incur this 15% rate.