

FEDIOL

Code of Practice on Pesticides residues

Taken over from the IASC Code of Practice on Pesticide Residues

Introduction

The use of pesticide sprays on agricultural crops, including oilseeds, is a common practice. They are applied during the growing cycle to safeguard quantity and/or quality and may be used post-harvest to protect the crop against attack and/or damage by insects. Such pesticides may be organophosphorous, organochlorine or pyrethroid in nature.

It is well established that residues from pesticide application are not easily and/or fully removed during subsequent processing and possible health concerns have resulted in various Governments imposing bans on the use of certain pesticides, considered as the most potentially hazardous.

With oilseeds, experience has shown that those applied post-harvest to protect the seed during subsequent storage can create the biggest problem, more particularly if spraying takes place reasonably shortly before the seed is processed. Any residues may not be fully removed during the crushing operation and can remain in the crude oil delivered to a refinery.

Such residues may be fully removed, or will be substantially reduced, during a normal and adequate refining process and many countries impose limits on the levels of pesticide residues allowed to be present in the final product. These must be below the specified figures and may only be of those types which have not been banned in the country concerned.

Analysis for the presence of pesticide residues is complex but can be made easier if the receiver is aware of the type/s of pesticides which has/have been applied.

Code of Practice

1. **All** those involved in the handling of oilseeds should take whatever steps they reasonably can to ensure that the pesticides used in their country, whether on farm or during storage, are restricted to those universally approved.
2. **Stocks** of oilseeds should preferably not be sprayed within one month of their intended delivery to a seed crusher. Where such a time lag is impractical, suppliers should endeavour to make buyers aware of the approximate date of spraying as well as the type of pesticide used.
3. **Refiners** should be aware of the residue limits imposed by law, by good commercial practice or by the demands or expectations of their customers and should arrange for periodic analysis of both crude and refined oils to satisfy themselves as to the quality of their raw materials and the efficiency of their processing operation.

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