

## **Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (NI) 2008**

**January 2009**



The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (NI) 2008 came into force on 8 December 2008. The Regulations enforce the provisions of European Parliament and Council Regulation 396/2005 EC on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin.

EC Regulation 396/2005 established a Community regime for setting and controlling Maximum Residue Levels in food and feeding stuffs.

A key feature of the new controls is the establishment of Annex I to the Regulation, containing a commodity list of foods and feeds for which MRLs will be set. Key features of the document are:

- A number of foods will be subject to MRLs for the first time;
- It provides for MRL controls to be extended to animal feeds in the future;
- A default MRL of 0.01 mg/kg (set as a limit of determination) will apply to those commodities where no specific MRL is set, unless a different default level is agreed, or until such time as an MRL is set on the basis of the evaluation of data.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is designated as the national authority for the purposes of Article 38 of Regulation 396/2005.

The Regulations create an offence of placing on the market as food or feed, or feeding to an animal, any product covered by Annex I to Regulation 396/2005, if that product contains pesticide residue levels in excess of those specified in that Regulation.

The new Regulations also create an offence of processing or mixing certain products with a view to placing them on the market as food or feed, or feeding them to animals.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate has issued guidance on best practice in the use of pesticides which advises that pesticide products should always be used in line with their approved conditions of use.

*Please note: The content of this article is for information purposes only and further advice should be sought from a professional advisor before any action is taken.*