fenitrothion

Do not use fenitrothion on canola seed or spray structures with fenitrothion where canola seed will be stored.

Images courtesy of CBH Group

Fenitrothion Use

Fenitrothion is registered in Australia:

- As a direct treatment to cereal grain (commonly referred to as a contact insecticide); and/or
- As a surface treatment on cereal grain; and/or
- As a structural treatment where cereals are to be stored

The fenitrothion label does not allow direct addition to canola seed or use as a surface treatment of stored canola. Nor does it allow for structural treatment of storages where canola is to be stored.

MRL for Fenitrothion

Despite no registered use of fenitrothion on canola, there is a maximum residue limit (MRL) of 0.1mg/kg on canola. This low level MRL was set to cater for the unintended presence of fenitrothion on canola.

As the MRL for canola is very low, growers and industry must ensure they handle and store canola in a manner that does not lead to uptake of fenitrothion by the canola from structures that may have previously held cereal grains and that may contain traces of fenitrothion residues.

What are the Market Requirements

There are a number of domestic and export markets for Australian canola. When selling canola domestically, the MRL of 0.1mg/kg applies. Overseas, a number of countries have different MRLs for fenitrothion on a range of crops such as canola.

Before treating any canola in Australia, growers and industry should be aware of the market acceptance of residues on canola and the MRLs that apply in each market. It is the responsibility of growers and exporters to ensure that exported canola complies with the Australian MRLs as well as the MRLs or import tolerances of the destination country.

A major customer of Australian canola is Japan. Japan has no MRL established for fenitrothion on canola and thus the Japanese Government defaults to a uniform limit of 0.01 mg/kg as the MRL.

How to Meet Market Requirements

Only chemicals registered for use on canola are to be used. Always read the label and use the chemical in compliance with label rates and recommendations. Acceptance by the market of that chemical should also be checked before use.

Canola should only be handled and stored in facilities that will not lead to contamination of the canola with chemical residues that are not permitted by the marketplace.

To ensure compliance of exported canola with market limits, industry Quality Assurance programs should test canola at the level of detection used by importing countries. Thus for canola exports to Japan, a limit of reporting (LOR) at or below 0.01 mg/kg is required.