



APICULTURE

NEW ZEALAND

Glyphosate residues in honey

In January 2021, Japan advised that it would be implementing 100% testing of all honey from New Zealand. The testing will be done on arrival at the border. The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries has issued an OMAR notification making glyphosate testing a requirement for all New Zealand honey exported to Japan.

What is being done to ensure NZ honey meets Japan's requirements?

- The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has introduced new requirements for glyphosate testing prior to New Zealand honey being exported to Japan.
- This will ensure Japan has ongoing confidence in our honey. The requirement for mandatory testing started on 21 January 2021.
- It is important to note that the level of detections of glyphosate residues in New Zealand honey are not a food safety issue.
- New Zealand honey exporters must test all honey they export to Japan for glyphosate to ensure it meets Japan's maximum residue level for glyphosate (0.01mg/kg).
- Testing must be carried out in a laboratory approved to test for glyphosate in accordance with MPI's requirements. If test results are not provided, MPI will not grant export certification for that consignment of honey.

Questions and answers

How do I know New Zealand honey is safe?

Consumers can be reassured that the NZ Food Safety (MPI) tests have confirmed that there **are no food safety concerns** at the level of glyphosate detected. As context, a five-year-old child eating honey at the limits set by the New Zealand Government would need to eat about 230 kilograms of honey every day for the rest of their life to reach the World Health Organization Acceptable Daily Intake for glyphosate.

Is the industry concerned about the fact that glyphosate has shown up in NZ honey?

Glyphosate residues are a concern for our industry and it's something we need to manage carefully and we do;

- Beekeepers today are a lot more aware about the issue and do their part by carefully considering where they place their hives and communicating regularly with landowners to avoid placing hives near spraying.
- Honey processors do their part by rigorous testing of honey that they are packing to ensure it is well below the limits.

Have NZ honey producers been testing for glyphosate?

Many New Zealand honey producers have been testing for glyphosate for some time. Our industry understands the importance of responding to consumer expectations and we are committed to ensuring our honey meets the needs of all our markets.

What is being done to address this issue?

Apiculture NZ is working with the wider primary sector and government agencies to proactively manage glyphosate residues in honey.

Background

In 2020, MPI released a report finding that small levels of glyphosate residues been found in some New Zealand honeys, following tests undertaken by New Zealand Food Safety (MPI).

- The New Zealand Food Safety's (MPI) test results show that there is **no food safety concern** from glyphosate residues detected in honey.
- Beekeepers are aware of this issue and do their part by carefully considering where they place their hives and communicating regularly with landowners to avoid placing hives near spraying.
- Our industry is aware of the need to test for residues so that they can manage and address this issue proactively.
- Apiculture NZ is working with Government and primary sector agencies on proactively managing glyphosate residues in honey.