

Wissenschaftliche Forschungsstelle
im Verband der Cigarettenindustrie

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Changes to be expected in the German legislation about
levels of residues from treatment of tobacco

1. All tolerances of residues are to be related to the tobacco as contained in the finished products which are sold to the consumer.

According to this principle the manufacturers will be responsible that residue levels in their blends do not exceed the required tolerances. In consequence they will have to consider high levels of residues in tobacco as a negative characteristic of quality.

2. As a rule, the residues in cigarette tobacco, in cigars, in pipe tobacco or in chewing tobacco should not exceed the tolerances as required by the German ordinance of 30th November 1966 (Höchstmengen-VO-Pflanzenschutz, Bundesgesetzblatt Nr. 53, 10. Dezember 1966).

The limitation to 1/10 of these tolerances will, however, be dropped.

3. The Federal Institute of Health requires prohibition of treatment with the compounds listed in § 2 (annexe 2) of the German ordinance and in addition, no doubt has been left that the use of DDT and TDE will also be prohibited.

- 3.1. The zero tolerances (§ 2) will be replaced by very low residue levels.

- 3.1.1. In the case of arsenic, selenium and mercury the tolerances will just allow for natural occurrence.

- 3.1.2. By 1975, the residues of aldrin, chlordan, dieldrin, endrin, isobenzene, heptachlor and heptachlorepoxyd should be lower than 0,2 ppm. As such residue levels can well result from uptake from the soil tobaccos treated with these compounds are no longer acceptable. Treatment of soils must be stopped immediately.

- 3.2. By 1976 residues from the sum of (DDT + TDE) must be so low, that tobaccos treated with DDT or TDE are no longer acceptable.



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4. Higher residue levels of dithiocarbamates will be tolerated. If such treatment is unavoidable for the protection against attacks of blue mold, it should be kept to the absolute required minimum.
5. In the case of the herbicides patoran, monolinuron and linuron the requirements will be more liberal if in due time convincing evidence can be presented stating that residues up to 3 ppm will not lead to the formation of harmful products of pyrolysis.
6. For all pesticides, the use of which is not explicitly permitted in the Federal Republic of Germany, a pending revision of the food law (which includes tobacco) will require clearance by German authorities if residues of such compounds are contained in food or in tobacco products.

This new version of the law would for instance mean that producers of new pesticides would have to obtain clearance from the German authorities before tobacco goods containing residues of their products can be sold in the Federal Republic of Germany.

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