

Glossary of terms

<i>County contract sample</i>	As part of the Priority Pesticide Program (1987-2000), DPR contracted with county agricultural commissioners to collect produce samples.
<i>Discretionary original Sample</i>	Original samples are divided into “discretionary” and “targeted”. For discretionary original samples, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) sample collector is free to select any type of raw agricultural commodity, and any country of origin.
<i>Emergency exemption</i>	See “Section 18”.
<i>Focused Monitoring</i>	An early name for DPR’s Priority Pesticide Program.
<i>Follow-up sample</i>	One of the two basic types of produce samples collected by DPR (the second type is “original” samples). Follow-up samples are for-cause, meaning that the sample collector has cause to suspect that the lot of produce being sampled contains an illegal residue.
<i>Illegal residue</i>	There are two instances when a pesticide residue is illegal: (1) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established a tolerance for that pesticide on the commodity on which the residue was found, but the level of the residue exceeds the tolerance; or (2) U.S. EPA has not established any tolerance for that pesticide on the commodity on which the residue was found, and has not exempted the pesticide from the requirement for a tolerance. In either instance, the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act makes it illegal to sell the commodity.
<i>LC / MS</i>	See “liquid chromatography / mass spectrometry”
<i>Lead RO</i>	The Regional Office (RO) that services the county in which a lot of reportedly-contaminated produce is located. If the lot was already sampled, this is the county in which the sample was collected. If the lot has not yet been sampled, this is the county where a report or complaint states that the produce is located. The Lead RO assigns the T-case number, and takes the initial steps of responding to the T-case.

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Limit of Detection (LOD)

The lowest concentration of a chemical that a given analytical procedure can detect and identify, but not necessarily quantitate as an exact value. For pesticide analysis, the LOD is expressed in ppm or ppb. The LOD may be lower than the Limit of Quantitation (LOQ), because the analytical procedure might be able to detect and identify trace amounts of a chemical even when the concentration is too low to be measured accurately.

Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)

The lowest concentration of a chemical that a given analytical procedure can measure (quantitate) with suitable precision and accuracy. For pesticide analysis, the LOQ is expressed in ppm or ppb. The LOQ may be higher than the Limit of Detection (LOD), because the analytical procedure might be able to detect and identify trace amounts of a chemical even when the concentration is too low to quantitate.

Liquid chromatography / Mass spectrometry (LC / MS)

A procedure for detecting and identifying chemical residues. Liquid chromatography (LC) is an analytical technique for separating various chemicals that are dissolved in a solvent, based on differences in the speed at which the different chemicals pass through a column. Mass spectrometry (MS) is an instrumental method for identifying the chemical constitution of a substance by separating gaseous ions according to their differing mass and charge. In a mass spectrometer, molecules in a sample are ionized by an electron beam. The ions are then separated by electromagnetic fields in an analyzer according to their mass-to-charge ratios. Finally, ions are detected electronically and the signal from the detector is electronically processed into a mass spectrum.

Lot

- (1) All containers of a single product that are marked with the same lot number by the producer, importer, or packer.
- (2) In the absence of clear lot numbers, all containers of a single commodity from a single production field harvested on a single date; or all containers packed during a single run of a single packing facility.
- (3) In the absence of clear evidence for definition #2, all containers of a single product marked with the same brand name or logo and delivered via a single shipment. After the initial delivery, portions of the shipment might later be transported to separate locations. The decision of whether or not those portions are distinct lots is at the discretion of DPR staff.

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<i>Marketplace Surveillance Program</i>	A DPR regulatory monitoring program in which produce samples were collected throughout the channels of trade. In 2001, this program was merged with the “Priority Pesticide Program” to form what is currently named “California Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program”.
<i>No tolerance established (NTE)</i>	A pesticide residue that is illegal because U.S. EPA has not established any tolerance for that particular pesticide on the commodity on which the residue was found, and has not exempted the pesticide from the requirement for a tolerance. Contrast to “Over tolerance”.
<i>Organic produce</i>	Produce grown in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program, generally without the use of synthetically manufactured pesticides and fertilizers.
<i>Original sample</i>	One of the two basic types of produce samples collected by DPR (the second type is “discretionary” samples). Original samples are neutral-scheme, meaning that the sample collector has no particular reason to suspect that the lot of produce being sampled contains an illegal pesticide residue. Original samples are divided into “targeted” original samples and “discretionary” original samples, defined in this Glossary.
<i>Over tolerance (OT)</i>	A pesticide residue that is illegal because, even though U.S. EPA has established a tolerance for that particular pesticide on the commodity on which the residue was found, the level of the residue exceeds the tolerance (is above or “over” the tolerance). Contrast to “No tolerance established”.
<i>Parts per billion (ppb)</i>	An expression of concentration (for example, of a pesticide residue). One ppb is equivalent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 milligram of pesticide per 1,000 kilograms of produce, or• 0.001 parts per million.
<i>Parts per million (ppm)</i>	An expression of concentration (for example, of a pesticide residue). One ppm is equivalent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 milligram of pesticide per kilogram of produce, or• 1,000 parts per billion. One percent is equal to 10,000 ppm.

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<i>Point of entry</i>	A location where produce from other states or countries enters California. Includes airports, seaports, and roadway border crossings.
<i>Point of origin</i>	A site where California-grown produce is packed prior to shipment. The point of origin may be located at the production field for commodities such as lettuce, strawberries, or table grapes; or at a packing shed for commodities such as citrus or melons.
<i>Preharvest Monitoring Program</i>	A program conducted by DPR from 1987-1993 that monitored pesticide residues in selected crops that had not yet been harvested. The main goal of the program was to detect illegal use of pesticides.
<i>Priority Pesticide Program</i>	A program conducted by DPR from 1987-2000 that monitored residues of pesticides of special health interest. Only commodities <u>known to have been treated</u> with a priority pesticide were sampled, in order to provide accurate data for estimates of dietary exposure. Samples were collected by County Agricultural Commissioner staff, under contract to the State. In 2001, this program was merged with the Marketplace Surveillance Program to form what is currently named “California Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program”.
<i>Produce</i>	The word “produce” is used in Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) sections related to residues (FAC Division 7, Chapter 1.5). However, the FAC does not include a definition of “produce”. Therefore, DPR uses the definition from <i>Webster’s Dictionary</i> : “something produced; yield; especially, fresh fruits and vegetables.”
<i>Produce Destined for Processing Program</i>	A program conducted by DPR from 1987-1993 that monitored pesticide residues in fresh produce that was later going to be processed (for example, fresh tomatoes that were later going to be canned). The program was established and funded by Chapter 1285, Statutes of 1985, AB 1397. As stated in FAC section 12534, the goal of the program was to determine which pesticides are most likely to leave a residue and to what extent it is necessary to monitor the produce.

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<i>Quarantine</i>	Within this manual, the term “quarantine” is used interchangeably with “seize”(verb) or “seizure” (noun) in the sense that “seize” and “seizure” are used within Division 7, Chapter 1.5, Article 5 of the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC sections 12601 – 12615).
<i>Reconditioning</i>	The act of modifying produce that contains an illegal residue, in order to make the produce legal for sale. There are two main options: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Converting the contaminated produce into “byproducts” that may lawfully contain the pesticide residue that was detected (FAC section 12607), or2) Treating the contaminated produce in some way to reduce or eliminate pesticide residues. The treatment may consist of simply holding the produce in storage to allow time for the pesticide to break down, or may consist of some active intervention such as washing or peeling the produce.
<i>Regional Office (RO)</i>	An office of DPR’s Enforcement Branch that services a geographic portion of the state of California. DPR divides California into three regions (Northern, Central, and Southern), each serviced by a separate Regional Office.
<i>Residue</i>	The amount of a specific pesticide present on or in a sample of a particular commodity. Usually measured via laboratory analysis, and expressed in units of parts per million (ppm).
<i>Section 18</i>	An emergency exemption of a pesticide product from the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Named for Section 18 of FIFRA, which allows a State to issue such exemptions if it is determined that an emergency exists. Emergency exemptions are for pesticide uses for which U.S. EPA has not established any tolerance or exemption from tolerance. For the emergency exemption, U.S. EPA will issue a temporary tolerance that expires on a specific date (called a time-limited tolerance). Contrast to “Section 24(c)”.

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<i>Section 24(c)</i>	Also called a Special Local Need registration. Named for Section 24(c) of the FIFRA (the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act). That section allows states to provide registration for additional uses of pesticides that are already federally registered. The key difference with a Section 18 is, U.S.EPA must already have established a tolerance for the pesticide on the commodity for which the 24(c) registration will be provided. Contrast to “Section 18”.
<i>Special Local Need</i>	See “Section 24(c)”.
<i>Special surveys</i>	Collection of multiple samples of a particular commodity, in order to gather pesticide residue data for commodities that may be of special concern.
<i>T-case number</i>	An internal DPR tracking number that identifies a specific case in which an illegal pesticide residue <u>has been reported to DPR</u> , including unconfirmed referrals and complaints. In other words, the assignment of a T-case number does not necessarily indicate that a residue violation actually occurred. The “T” stands for “tracking”.
<i>Targeted original sample</i>	Original samples are divided into “discretionary” and “targeted”. For targeted original samples, the DPR sample collector must select the specific types of commodities and the specific countries of origin that are targeted within the current sampling plan.
<i>Time-limited Tolerance</i>	See “Section 18”.
<i>Tolerance</i>	The highest residue level of a particular pesticide that is legally allowed on a particular commodity. Tolerances for a pesticide are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and are based on crop residue trial data and the potential risks the pesticide poses to human health.