

## **New Zealand Food Safety direction to establish a maximum residue level for nicarbazin in eggs**

Pursuant to section 405 of the Food Act 2014 for the purposes of section 383(8)(a) of the same Act, I, Allan Kinsella, Director, Assurance, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following direction for establishing a new maximum residue level (MRL) for the agricultural compound nicarbazin in eggs.

Nicarbazin is an antimicrobial compound intended for the treatment and prevention of coccidiosis in broiler chickens and is administered by incorporation into animal feed. Because feed produced for layer hens can be manufactured at the same site as feed containing nicarbazin for administration to broiler chickens, there is a potential for unavoidable cross-contamination of non-target feed by nicarbazin.

The reason for this direction is to ensure the trade and food safety risks associated with nicarbazin residues in eggs due to the unintentional exposure of layer hens to the compound can be effectively managed. An assessment of all available information and data has concluded that 0.3 mg/kg is the most appropriate MRL to establish for this purpose. This is in line with similar limits put in place by Australia and the EU for nicarbazin in eggs. A dietary intake risk assessment was also performed using the 0.3 mg/kg MRL and a health-based guidance value (HBGV) of 0.2 mg/kg bw/day. The dietary intake risk assessment confirmed that, when the new MRL and all existing nicarbazin MRLs are considered, the total national estimated dietary intake from all uses will total less than 4% of the HBGV. The establishment of a nicarbazin MRL for eggs to manage the unavoidable carry-over of the compound into non-target feed is therefore unlikely to result in any health risks from authorised use.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.