



NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides  
Grupo de Trabajo Técnico del TLCAN sobre Plaguicidas  
Le groupe de travail technique de l'ALENA sur les pesticides

## PROJECT COMPLETION SHEET

**SUBCOMMITTEE:** Food Residue

**PROJECT TITLE:** Commodity / Pest-based Strategy for Addressing Trade Irritants and Risk Reduction for Tomato

**PROJECT ID:** FR07-03-1005

**PROJECT LEADS:** Canada: Peter Chan / Monique Thomas / Debby LeBlanc  
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**PROJECT DATES:** Initiation date: November 2003  
Completion date: November 2007

**GOAL/OBJECTIVE:** To develop and implement a North American strategy to address trade irritants/barrier and achieve risk reduction for tomato (fresh and processed; field and greenhouse).

### BACKGROUND

Tomato grower organizations from Canada, Mexico and the United States identified three priority pesticide active ingredients as potential trade barriers. All three of the priorities were selected to move through the harmonization process. A work plan was developed to identify key issues and approaches/options for resolving the differences in tolerances/MRLs. Through this work plan, EPA/PMRA/Mexico were able to identify and track specific strategies and actions towards harmonization. Bi-weekly PMRA-EPA-Mexico teleconferences to discuss activities and track progress towards completion of these priorities were on-going. Consultations with tomato grower organizations were made as necessary regarding approaches/options for resolving discrepancies. Periodic updates were provided to tomato stakeholders. In some instances, harmonization options achieved risk reduction through identification of available potential alternative pest control tools.

### OUTPUT/RESULTS

Harmonization to alleviate potential trade barriers has been achieved for all three active ingredients. Although this demonstrates success, for the most part, the commodity approach has proven to be resource intensive, complex and disruptive to the mainstream regulatory processes in place. Even on this small scale project, the drawbacks have limited the timely success for regulatory agencies and stakeholders. The remaining priorities will be transferred to the new chemical based approach / grower priority database.