Heavy Metals in Specialty Fertiliser

1. Definition

Heavy metals are naturally occurring in the environment and can also be present in certain mined fertiliser raw ingredients. These ingredients may then be utilised in the production of inorganic fertilisers, which may then contain trace amounts of certain heavy metals, of which Cadmium is generally of the greatest concern due to its ability to be taken up by plant roots.

2. Industry Statement

Depending on the source material and manufacturing process, fertilisers can contain impurities that may affect plants and animals. Known impurities are managed by a combination of various government and industry regulation of Maximum Permissible Concentrations (MPC's), combined with warning statements and guidance around appropriate usage.

Fertiliser that is labelled according to the National Code of Practice for Fertiliser Description and Labelling will state the content of any impurities that are above defined levels and provide warnings about how they should be used. Although Food Standards Australia concluded that there are no public health and safety concerns for Australian consumers with Cadmium dietary intake, the fertiliser industry is committed to maintaining minimal levels of heavy metals in inorganic fertilisers.

3. Further Reading

- Food Standards Australia "*25th Australian Total Diet Study:" 2019 page 6 available at:* www.foodstandards.gov.au/publications/Documents/25thAustralianTotalDietStudy.pdf
- A copy of the current Code of Practice is available at: Labelling and Description (fertilizer.org.au)
- Discussion around Food Safety and Heavy Metals in the food chain https://fertilizer.org.au/Fertilizer-Issues/Food-Safety
- Victorian Fertiliser Regulation guide Fertiliser regulation | Chemicals | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria

4. Summary

Campbells Fertilisers Australasia (CFA) meets legal requirements and operates within accepted Industry Standards for the sale of fertilisers within Australia.

Additionally, processes are in place to minimise risk, which may include an initial Certificate of Analysis (COA)* from our suppliers, random product sampling and regular independent testing to monitor accuracy of COA's, and regular manufacturing reviews with our suppliers.

**Specifications related to individual product batches are available by request when available.*

Disclaimer

The information and recommendations set out in herein are no substitute for professional or expert advice and are based on tests and data believed to be reliable at the time of publication. Results may vary, as the use and application of fertilisers is beyond our control and may be subject to climatic, geographical or biological variables. To the maximum extent permitted by law, CFA disclaims all warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, including but not limited to any warranty that this information is up-to-date, complete, true, legally compliant, accurate, non-misleading or suitable.

Campbells Fertilisers Aust. Pty. Ltd.
ACN: 075 621 993 18 Raymond Road, Laverton North, 3206, Victoria, Australia
Phone: (61 3) 9931 2211 Facsimile: (61 3) 9931 2201 e: info@campbellsfert.com.au
www.campbellsfert.com.au