HISTORY OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

Bentazone

The 1958 and 1963 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* did not refer to bentazone, but the 1971 International Standards suggested that pesticide residues that may occur in community water supplies make only a minimal contribution to the total daily intake of pesticides for the population served. Bentazone was not evaluated in the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, but a health-based guideline value of 0.03 mg/l was identified for bentazone in the 1993 Guidelines, based on an ADI established by JMPR. This guideline value was amended to 0.3 mg/l in the addendum to the Guidelines, published in 1998, based on new information on the environmental behaviour of bentazone and exposure from food. In the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, it was concluded that it was not necessary to derive a health-based guideline value for bentazone because it occurs at concentrations well below those at which toxic effects are observed. This assessment was brought forward to the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011 and its addenda, published in 2017 and 2022 respectively, which reaffirmed the conclusions of the previous edition. However, the fourth edition of the Guidelines incorporating the first addendum, published in 2017, included a health-based value (HBV) of 0.5 mg/L based on an updated ADI established by JMPR (described in the 2016 assessment as a background document to the Guidelines). This was bought forward to the Guidelines incorporating the first and second addenda published in March 2022. In addition, the March 2022 Guidelines included an acute HBV of 20 mg/L based on an acute reference dose established by JMPR (described in the 2021 assessment as a background document to the Guidelines). Both the HBV and the acute HBV can provide guidance to Member States when there is a reason for local concern.