

FOOD SAFETY UPDATE

Endosulfan

In Cutting Edge No. 120 CGA/CRI advised growers of the decision by the Registrar of the Fertilizer, Farm Feeds and Agricultural Remedies Act (Act 36 of 1947) that all current registrations of plant protection products containing Endosulfan (including all isomers) will be cancelled. It will be an offence for any person to possess with the intent to supply, use or deal with Endosulfan products after 30th April 2012 unless authorized to do so by the Registrar Act 36 of 1947. Producers are reminded that the Endosulfan recommended usage restriction on export citrus is "not later than 90% petal fall" which means spring 2011 is the last opportunity to use any Endosulfan stock.

Fenpyroximate

Studies to determine the residue breakdown of Fenpyroximate were concluded earlier in 2011 and the following changes will accordingly be made to the Recommended Usage Restrictions for Fenpyroximate on export citrus.

All markets except where other restrictions apply: 28d PHI as registered.

CODEX (China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia): 28d PHI as registered for oranges. 150d PHI and not later than October for other citrus

CODEX (Middle East): 28d PHI as registered.

Canada: 150d PHI and not later than October.

USA: 28d PHI as registered.

Japan: 28d PHI as registered.

Korea: 28d PHI as registered for soft citrus. 150d PHI and not later than October for other citrus

Prothiofos

Prothiofos residues have been detected in unofficial residue testing in 2011 on three occasions, but on re-testing these residues were not found. Growers are therefore cautioned to strictly apply the recommended usage restriction of "... Prothiofos should only be use once and not later than 90% petal fall" on export citrus". This is particularly

important when climatic factors cause flowering to occur over an extended period, in which case producers should rather err on the side of caution and spray earlier rather than later to prevent application directly onto fruitlets.

Ethephon

Two recent un-official reports suggest that traces of Ethephon have been detected on samples analysed in the second half of the export season. Besides the Recommended Usage Restriction for Ethephon being "not permitted" for fruit destined to the EU it seems very unlikely that Ethephon would be used at this time of the year anyway (to enhance the colour of fruit). A possible explanation for this exceedance is that traces of Ethephon could persist on the packline well beyond the date when it was last used.

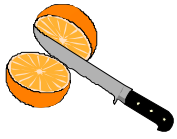
Incineration of used chemical containers

Growers undergoing a GLOBALGAP audit using Version 4 may have encountered the problem created by Control Point 8.9 which results in a non-compliance when using home-made incinerators for on-farm destruction of empty chemical containers. According to the National Environmental Management Act (1998) and subsequent Government Notices (718, 248 & 777), if such containers are not destroyed on-farm, they have to be sent to the nearest authorized incinerator; a highly impractical and costly exercise. CGA is engaging with GLOBALGAP and Croplife SA in order to reach a workable solution.

Differences in local (South African) and European analytical capacity

Some exporters have complained about the apparent difference in the sensitivity of the residue testing capability of local and foreign laboratories. For example problems occur when residues on fruit are detected in the EU when samples were drawn from the same batch and sent to a local laboratory where no residues were detected. A number of comments can be made in this regard:

- Such problems are not necessarily a reflection on the local laboratory's ability to detect residues because variation in results can arise from the sampling process itself. It is not unusual for residues to vary (sometimes up to 100%) on fruit analysed using the same analytical methodology and equipment at the same facility. In the EU official environment, such variation is taken



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into account when determining the fate of affected fruit.

- It is important to obtain information from your analytical service provider regarding the range of active substances they are able to analyse for, to ensure that the products you may have used are included.
- Obtain information from your analytical service provider regarding level of determination (LOD). Ensure that the LOD is equal to or lower than the MRL, otherwise the laboratory test may indicate "not detected" despite the possible presence of a residue in excess of the MRL.
- Cross-contamination should not be ruled out. Growers should immediately request a repeat or subsequent sample be drawn and tested.
- Most importantly compliance with MRLs is achieved primarily by following the specified Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and Recommended Usage Restrictions, and producers should not only rely on the results of the laboratory to determine the suitability of that fruit for a particular market.

CGA/CRI visit EU Retailers and Regulators

Mid-September 2011 Prof Vaughan Hattingh (CRI) and Paul Hardman (CGA) will be visiting UK and EU retailers and regulators to discuss factors impacting on Good Agricultural Practice and Food Safety. Should you wish to raise any particular concerns in this regard impacting on the sustainable supply of citrus into the European Union (incl. UK) this input would be most welcome. Please correspond with Paul Hardman (ph@cga.co.za or tel 031 7652514).

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