



Cutting Edge

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Status of EU Methidathion MRL

During recent meetings between CGA/CRI and Chemical Safety Directorate officials in the UK it was confirmed that the European Commission are proposing a revised lower EU MRL for Methidathion to 0.02 mg/kg. CGA/CRI highlighted these potential changes to the General Export Tolerance for Methidathion in the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus (July 2010)*.

While this new level must still be voted on, and get published in the Official Journal (law) before it will come into force at this time, there is no reason to believe that the 0.02 mg/kg MRL will not apply to some proportion, if not all, of the 2010/11 export crop. Unfortunately Commission officials were not able to provide a firm indication about the timing of the changes which could be as soon as December 2010 or as late as October 2011.

Given this uncertainty it would be prudent to apply a cautionary approach and CGA/CRI will revise the Recommended Usage Restrictions as follows:

All markets except where other restrictions apply: Not later than 90% petal fall

CODEX (A): 56d PHI as registered.

CODEX (B): 56d PHI as registered.

Canada: 56d PHI as registered.

USA: 56d PHI as registered.

Japan: 56d PHI as registered.

Korea: 56d PHI as registered for Mandarins. Not later than 90% petal fall for other citrus.

Tesco (UK) suppliers

Tesco (UK) suppliers are invited to send proposed changes to the South African Citrus PPPL (hard and soft citrus) to CGA by no later than Friday 10 September 2010. Changes will be incorporated into the PPPL applicable for citrus exported in 2011 to Tesco (UK). Copies of the document are available from Paul (ph@cga.co.za or 031 765 2514).