



## FOOD SAFETY UPDATE

### Endosulfan

Notification was received 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 from the Registrar of Fertilizer, Farm Feeds and Agricultural Remedies Act (Act 36 of 1947) that from January 2012 all current registrations of plant protection products containing the active substance Endosulfan (including all isomers) will be cancelled. The basis for cancellation is the recent (April 2011) listing of Endosulfan under the Rotterdam Convention, of which South Africa is a signatory. Supply of Endosulfan is permitted onto the South African market until January 2012, while holding stock and the use of Endosulfan is permitted until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012. It will then be an offence for any person to possess with the intent to supply, use or deal with Endosulfan products after 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 unless authorized to do so by the Registrar Act 36 of 1947.

### Indonesia Food Safety Import Requirements:

An application was made to Indonesian authorities requesting recognition of the South African Food Safety System earlier in the year, which would reduce the burden currently placed on exports of citrus to this market (e.g. additional residue testing). As of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 no official response has been received via diplomatic channels besides that the Indonesians have received the application. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) continue to engage the Indonesian Embassy, the DAFF Agricultural attaché, and DAFF Foreign Affairs division to try obtain the desired recognition.

### Viet Nam Food Safety Import Requirements:

**Food Safety:** New Vietnam food safety import requirements (*Circular No. 13/2011/tt-BNNPTNT – Circular Guiding on the food safety control for imported foodstuffs of plant origin*) came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011. In anticipation of these requirements CGA and Hortgro (deciduous industry) had communicated in May 2011 with DAFF about the critical need to provide Vietnamese authorities with information that would ensure uninterrupted access to this market for citrus and deciduous products. In following up this matter CGA were advised that documents prepared by mid-June 2011, jointly by DAFF

and the fruit sectors, had still not been sent by 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011

A revised protocol established with Ambassador Verwey was compiled and sent with a letter from the DAFF Director General on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011 which seeks to address some of the confusion around the specific requirements in the Circular (e.g. what steps need to be taken to “register” for this market) and for South Africa as a country to be compliant to the requirements to export fruit to Vietnam.

DAFF have given an indication that this matter is now receiving urgent attention. In the meantime exporters intending to send fruit to Vietnam will need to await the response from the Vietnamese authorities or seek further information from their receivers in Vietnam to clarify the process of exporting to Vietnam. This is the untenable situation that CGA sort to avert by alerting DAFF in May 2011.

**Country of origin:** Exporters should also note that consignments of fruit entering the Vietnamese market will be subject to requirements for “Country of Origin” indications as laid down in Circular 06/2011/TT-BCT. This requirement also became effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011. Since each consignment of fruit exported from South Africa is accompanied by an Export Certificate, CGA understand that DAFF have requested to apply for recognition of the Export Certificate as an acceptable indication of South African product’s origin. Again, until further information is available exporters supplying the Vietnamese market are encouraged to discuss these country-of-origin requirements with their importer.

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