



CGA Consumer Assurance Update

MRL (PHI) Sept 2011

CGA/CRI have finalized the September 2011 edition of the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for plant protection products on southern African export citrus*. Growers should have received a copy and must note the changes brought into play since the April 2011 version, particularly those relating to Carbendazim, Fenpyroximate and Fenprothrin.

EU Visit

Paul Hardman and Vaughan Hattingh visited the EU from 11 – 16 September 2011 to engage with retailers and regulators around a number of consumer assurance, sanitary and phytosanitary matters. Drawing from these discussions the following comments can be made relating to maintaining a high level of consumer assurance when supplying the EU market:

- **EHEC:** After the *E.coli* outbreak linked to sprouts in Germany and France in 2011 it is again clear microbial contamination incidents can be devastating in terms of changing consumers' perceptions of the product's suitability for consumption and ultimately negatively impacting on trade. Citrus growers are therefore strongly advised to ensure appropriate hygiene practices are effectively implemented, as required by typical certification and hygiene standards (e.g. BRC, HACCP), in the packhouses and all stages of food handling. Effective traceability systems are also imperative to avoid unnecessary losses caused by delays in assessing the possible sources, causes and scope of an outbreak.
- **EU Marking Requirements:** CGA previously communicated that from 1 January 2012 post-harvest treatments must be specified on the business end of the carton (see Cutting Edge No 117). Packhouses will have the "off-season" to make any adaptations to packhouse systems that will ensure compliance to this requirement. It is a requirement that all post-harvest treatments must be declared to comply with EU marking requirements.
- **TESCO PPPL:** The Tesco hard and soft citrus PPPLs are due for revision and

finalization before 19 October 2011. SA citrus suppliers to Tesco are requested to send proposed changes to the lists (including specifying generic brand/product names) to Paul Hardman before 30 September 2011. Comments will be consolidated to provide a single proposal of changes from South Africa.

Ethical Trade

Fruit SA will be launching the Ethical Trade Programme on 5 October 2011 at 09H00 near OR TAMBO airport, Johannesburg. The event will cover "where have we come from?", "where are we now?", "response from GSCP and retailers" and "the way forward". Should you be interested in attending please contact the CGA office for more details.

Retailers are strongly supporting the ethical trade programme being rolled out by Fruit SA and growers are called upon to equally embrace this initiative in the interest of reducing duplication of ethical trade audits and to maintain a high level of integrity regarding labour practices on farms in South Africa. The recent Human Rights Watch (HRW) report ("Ripe with Abuse") while challenged from a credibility perspective cannot be ignored and growers must "keep their house in order". Fruit SA has received two specific complaints about non-conformances on farms which the CGA is looking into. The CGA is firstly trying to establish the legitimacy of these complaints and secondly work with the grower and labourers to find ways of resolving the problem.

Online FBO Registration with DAFF:

Recent notices have drawn attention to the fact that growers must register PUCs in order to export citrus to phytosanitary markets in 2012 (the deadline for that registration process is 21 October 2011). CGA would also like to remind growers that updating their business information on the DAFF FBO database is a separate but equally important requirement that must also be done on an annual basis. More information about updating your FBO details is available from CGA or growers can go to the DAFF website directly: <http://fbo.daff.gov.za>

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