



FOOD SAFETY UPDATE

Fenpyroximate CODEX MRLs

The uptake of Fenpyroximate for mite control has been curtailed by the lack of positive Codex MRLs for Fenpyroximate on citrus (besides oranges). This problem has now been addressed in that the Codex Commission (the 34th sitting in Geneva held 4th-9th July 2011) agreed that the Codex MRL be set at 0.5mg/kg MRL for the citrus group. CGA have confirmed with the Codex Commission that the new MRLs are now adopted, and therefore the following Recommended Usage Restrictions apply:

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

CODEX: 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.

Fenpropathrin EU MRL

As noted in the September 2011 version of the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus* the current proposal by EU authorities is to reduce the EU MRL for Fenpropathrin on citrus to Limit of Determination (LOD) in August 2012. A pre-harvest interval of 185 days is necessary in order to achieve these new residue requirements, effectively precluding Fenpropathrin as a late season corrective spray option. CGA has engaged with EU counterparts in order to retain the current EU MRL given the importance of this late season spray option, but the success of this application will only be known in early 2012. CGA seek to draw grower's attention to this situation when considering using Fenpropathrin late in the season and to advise them to be alert to future communication about the future status of the Fenpropathrin EU MRL.

Benomyl (Benlate) status in PPPL

Citrus growers supplying Tesco will be aware that Benomyl has been removed from the Tesco Plant

Protection Product List (PPPL) in 2012. However, given the importance of Benomyl as a pre-harvest fungicide and the lack of suitable alternative product, derogation by Tesco was subsequently granted allowing for the use of Benomyl under certain conditions. Suppliers of citrus to Tesco should engage with their primary Tesco buyer to discuss these specific requirements.

Confronting Climate Change: A fruit and wine initiative

The initial collaborative project between the main fruit exporting grower associations (CGA, HortGro, SATI, Subtropics and wine industry) and FPEF that tackled questions around the impact of climate change on fruit exports, and the fruit industry's contribution towards climate change, ended according to schedule in September 2011. Given the importance of this work additional funding has been secured to extend the project for a further two years with the key focus of maintaining the excellent tools and resources available to growers and secondly beefing up the reliability of the data by getting more growers to participate in the carbon calculator exercise. CGA will be bringing in additional help to assist growers in completing their carbon footprint in 2012. See the project website: www.climatefruitandwine.co.za

Incineration/Disposal of Empty Agrochemical Containers

Cutting Edge No 123 highlighted the problems around the destruction of empty agrochemical containers introduced with the enactment of the National Environmental Management Act (1998) and subsequent Government Notices (718, 248 & 777). Effectively these environmental laws prohibit the incineration of empty containers on-farm using homemade incinerators and compel growers to only use "approved facilities". These approved facilities are often vast distances from farms making this requirement costly and impractical. There is little interest from the agrochemical suppliers to collect used packaging. At the recent GLOBALGAP National Technical Workgroup meeting (6th December 2011) renewed efforts to engage with CropLife were discussed and will be pursued over the next few weeks. Growers are encouraged to discuss ways of handling the problem with agrochemical suppliers and other farmers at the local/regional level until a national solution can be found.



Status of citrus exports to Vietnam

In July 2011 DAFF submitted to Vietnamese authorities (NAFIQAD) an application to have South Africa approved as a supplier of products of plant origin as laid out in Circular No. 13/2011/TT-BNNPTNT. In a letter dated 7th September NAFIQAD confirmed they had received this application but needed additional clarification on a number of aspects of the South African Food Control Plan. Additional information was subsequently provided by DAFF on 12th October 2011. NAFIQAD reverted on the 8th November 2011 with further questions, which they felt South Africa had not satisfactorily addressed, including how South Africa would prevent the export of product potentially treated with “banned substances”. At the DAFF Food Safety Forum (15th November 2011) steps to address this new request for information were discussed. However, on the 23rd November 2011 and before any meaningful response could be compiled, the South African Mission in Hanoi was informed that **no imports of fresh fruits and food from plant origin from South Africa will be allowed** due to the lack of information provided to NAFIQAD. Given the impact of this decision, DAFF called a workshop on the 28th November to finalize a response to Vietnam. It is understood that this submission has now been received by NAFIQAD and that a reply is expected within six weeks. CGA made contributions to the final draft of the response sent to Vietnam and believe the prospect of citrus exports to Vietnam in 2012 are good, but official notification must be awaited.

Malaysia Labeling Requirements (3P)

DAFF have continued to engage Malaysian authorities around the acceptability of alternative labeling considered equivalent to the “3P labeling” requirements introduced in 2011. On 7th December 2011 DAFF communicated that the following feedback had been received from Malaysia. The G10 labels (see example below) had been approved with the following conditions:

- 1) Malaysian authorities accept the use of G10 size of 10cmx8cm. Regulation 6(1)(a) of 3P Regulation is exempted under this agreement.
- 2) The information on G10 label must include all information specified under 3P Regulation.
- 3) G10 labels conform to all specifications under Regulation 6 of 3P Regulation

Figure1: Example of G10 label

10 cm

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| Nama dan Alamat Pengeluar: Producer Name and Address: | Sunkist Growers 14130 Riverside Drive Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 U.S.A. | | |
| Nama Biasa Keluaran Pertanian: Agricultural Produce Name: | OREN ORANGE | Gred: Grade: | GRED 1 FANCY |
| Negara Asal Keluaran: Country Of Origin: | AMERIKA SYARIKAT USA | Saiz: Size: | 56 |

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