

FOOD SAFETY UPDATE

Fenpropathrin EU MRL

The Fenpropathrin EU MRLs for citrus were due to be reduced to the Level of Detection (as a part of Proposal SANCO 10691/2011) as highlighted in Cutting Edge 130 in December 2011. This matter was re-considered at the EU Standing Committee on pesticide residues on 14-15th March 2012 following submissions by CGA/CRI, the product manufacturer and the UK Chemical Regulatory Directorate. Subsequently feedback received is as follows: “... in the light of representations, plus an assessment submitted by the UK which supported the safety of the current MRL, the Commission agreed to withdraw all references to Fenpropathrin from the proposal before it was voted. As such the current MRLs of 2 mg/kg set for citrus will be maintained”. The latest version of the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus* reflects this new information and the “All markets” column has reverted back to “28d PHI as registered”.

Counterfeit pesticides

Growers are urged to take care to source pesticides from reputable product suppliers given recent concerns in other countries about the inclusion of undeclared pesticides into the formulation. Besides potential concern for users and consumers, the obvious risk is that fruit treated with such products could have unexpected residues higher than the local or import country tolerance leading to its rejection from the market. There have been no cases of this happening in South Africa but due caution should nevertheless be adopted.

Post-Harvest Treatment declaration

In 2011 growers were advised by DAFF that all post-harvest treatments would need to be included on the business end of the carton in keeping with harmonization with EU citrus standards. DAFF recently indicated this requirement will now only be enforced from next season (i.e. 2013) provided packhouses follow the current Export Citrus Quality Standards that compel packhouses to declare any post-harvest treatments on either the top

or side panel of the carton (see Standards for specific details). Packhouses should have already made arrangements to be able to declare the post-harvest treatments on the business label and any packhouse not in compliance will need to use this grace period to amend their packhouse systems accordingly.

Shellac Wax Update

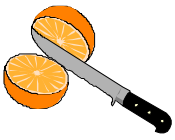
The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recently made a call for interested parties to supply specific toxicological data to fill certain data gaps around Shellac wax uses. CGA have been in discussion with SA citrus wax suppliers and these suppliers have assured CGA that efforts to provide the outstanding data are being pursued. Please note Shellac waxes continue to be permitted on fruit entering the EU. Should the status of Shellac waxes change CGA will notify growers accordingly.

Chlorantraniliprole (Rynaxypyr)

World Trade Organization (WTO) notifications regarding the imminent setting of positive MRLs for Chlorantraniliprole on citrus have been received. Specifically in the EU a 0.7 mg/kg MRL has been proposed (WTO Notice G/SPS/N/EU/11), for Japan a 1.0 mg/kg MRL has been proposed (WTO Notice G/SPS/N/JPN/293) and in South Korea a 1.0 mg/kg MRL for mandarins was proposed (WTO Notice G/SPS/N/KOR/397). These changes are good news for the SA citrus industry. However, the specific enforcement dates for each of these new MRLs has not yet been published. CGA will communicate to growers once the details around their enforcement date become known.

Methyl Bromide

The Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 recently advised CGA of the phase out of methyl bromide registrations except for a limited number of specified purposes (i.e. quarantine and pre-shipment fumigation of traded commodities when required, and certain critical-use exemption in agriculture). This decision by the Registrar is in keeping with the Montreal Protocol, for ozone depleting substances such as Methyl Bromide, which set binding progressive phase-out obligations



on signatory countries. Effectively what this means is use of Methyl Bromide for soil fumigation will not be permitted after 1 January 2015 (supply of the products for soil fumigation will not be permitted from 1 January 2014).

Status of citrus exports to Vietnam

In early March 2012 the Vietnamese authorities (NAFIQUAD) approved South Africa's application for the importation of products of plant origin and placed South Africa on the list of compliant countries under Circular 13. SA citrus growers and exporters can thus resume exporting citrus to Vietnam but must follow the appropriate phytosanitary and sanitary requirements. CGA would like to express sincere thanks to DAFF and Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) for their hard work in regaining market access to Vietnam.

Malaysia Labelling Requirements (3P)

At the Citrus Marketing Forum on 15 March 2012 a call was made to standardize a label that would comply with the "3P" labelling requirements for product exported to Malaysia. To coordinate this request CGA requires the input of growers and exporters and particularly a suggestion for a preferred standardised label. Confirmation has already been received from Malaysian authorities regarding the suitability of the G10 label (see Cutting Edge 130), which could simply be adopted as the SA standardized label. Please send your comments or concerns through to the CGA office before 15 April 2012 in order to finalize this matter.

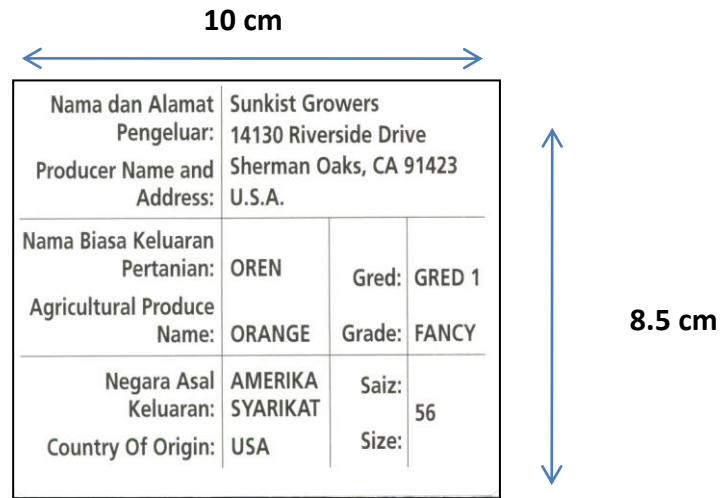


Figure1: Example of G10 label

Confronting Climate Change: A fruit and wine initiative

Following the CGA Roadshows in February 2012, CGA would like to express our sincere thanks to growers that agreed to complete their carbon footprint calculations. Names have been passed onto the project team who will be in contact to confirm times and dates when the exercise can be completed with these growers. Other growers wishing to participate can also go to the Confronting Climate Change website: www.climatefruitandwine.co.za to participate in this exercise.

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