



## CONSUMER ASSURANCE UPDATE

### Mancozeb (Dithane) future status in the EU

CGA/CRI have been in discussion with Dow AgroScience regarding the future status of Mancozeb for use on citrus exported to the EU. Discussions were precipitated by initial concerns coming from EU regulators around the possibility that Mancozeb could be classified as an endocrine disruptor under regulation EC/1107/2009. Substances classified as such face being phased out in the EU.

CGA/CRI now believe Mancozeb is very unlikely to be considered an endocrine disruptor and therefore its current and future status in the EU appears to be more secure than initially thought. This new information includes the following:

- The “cut-off criteria” rules for endocrine disruptors will only be finalized later in 2013. Using the leading proposals being considered by regulators at the moment, and comparing this with Mancozeb datasets, the expectation is that Mancozeb will not exceed the endocrine disruptor thresholds.
- Should there be any “surprise” cut-off criteria adopted in 2013 Dow AgroScience have indicated they stand ready to defend Dithane; if necessary by generating any outstanding data.
- The prevailing view is that the “cut-off criteria” will only begin having an impact when active substances are up for review in the EU. In the case of Mancozeb this must be in 2015/16 (although the review schedule is already running a little late). This means that if any changes in the Mancozeb status occur these changes are only likely to have an impact in a number of years time.

CGA/CRI will monitor regulatory progress around this active but believe there is currently no reason to withdraw it from fungicide spray programmes on the basis of EU endocrine disruptor regulatory concerns. This is welcome news in light of the need for ongoing management of Citrus Black Spot by producers sending citrus fruit to the EU.

### MRL (PHI) January 2013

The January 2013 edition of the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus* is now available showing the addition of some recently registered active substances in RSA. Copies are available from CGA ([ph@cga.co.za](mailto:ph@cga.co.za)).

### Registration on SIZA (Ethical Trade)

Growers are reminded about the available resources and information on the Fruit SA Ethical Trade website, such as the Ethical Trade Handbook, and the details around online registrations for SIZA (See <http://www.fruitsa-ethical.org.za/>). This is an important component of providing overall consumer assurance in light of labour unrest in some parts of the country and growers are strongly urged to make use of these helpful tools. For suppliers to the UK market, CGA will be involved in a teleconference discussion this week around SEDEX (the ethical trade database used by some UK retailers) to address the problem of duplicate uploading of ethical trade information. SIZA stands ready to “plug-in” the data in SEDEX but we hope to resolve how exactly this will happen. Further advice on the agreed way forward will follow.

### Carbon Footprints Benchmarking Exercise 2013

CGA is looking to get 100 citrus production unit codes/growers onto the Climate Change Carbon Footprint data platform. Already 32 have signed up. Resources and time have been set aside to assist growers to complete their questionnaires and to upload these onto the website. If you would like to participate please give the CGA office a call or email [ph@cga.co.za](mailto:ph@cga.co.za). It is for free and might just help identify opportunities to lower operating costs by highlighting “hot-spots” in energy consumption across different on- and off-farm activities.

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