



EU RESTRICTS THE USE OF IMIDACLOPRID, CLOTHIANIDIN AND THIAMETHOXAM

CGA/CRI have noted that the EU Parliament last week upheld the proposal by the European Commission to ban the use of Imidacloprid, Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam products in the EU. This measure has apparently been taken on the basis that some reports link bee decline in the EU to these neonicotinoid uses. The measure provides time for the Commission to generate and evaluate additional data around this matter. CGA/CRI have also noted the recent announcement by Waitrose in the UK that the use of these neonicotinoids on tree crops is not permitted with immediate effect for Waitrose suppliers – even in third countries outside the EU. Since fruit destined for Waitrose in 2013 may have already been treated with these products it is understood that affected producers will need to take steps to communicate usage to the retailer, but outright restriction of these products will mainly impact the next production cycle.

One potential concern that these measures bring is the problem of withdrawing Imidacloprid to control the vector psylla on non-bearing trees, with implications for controlling African greening. There are few suitable alternatives to cover for the loss of Imidacloprid here. CGA/CRI hope to engage Waitrose on this issue to retain critical and registered uses. Should growers have any issues or concerns relating to the withdrawal of these neonicotinoids please advise CGA urgently so that these can be brought into the engagement (ph@cqa.co.za).

Post-harvest marking requirements

EU Food labelling legislation (Directive 2000/13/EC) exempts fresh fruit and vegetables from labelling ingredients (including food additives). However, the use of coatings on citrus fruit needs to be labelled given the EU marketing standard requires the labelling of all post harvest treatments on citrus fruit (Regulation 1221/2008). Abbreviations found in the Food Additives legislation (EC/1333/2008) may be used if the category is indicated before the abbreviation (For example: “Wax: E903” (for Carnuba wax) and “Wax: E904” (for Shellac)). However, in practice there appears to be different levels of enforcement of labelling requirements across the EU and growers and exporters should engage with their EU buyers to determine the precise requirements in order to duly label cartons with appropriate declarations.

Residue tolerances for Citrus Black Spot (CBS) sprays

With the increased attention on reducing the risk of CBS interception in Europe and the potential intensification of CBS sprays to manage that risk, it is appropriate to remind growers to not neglect the residue requirements for CBS sprays in other markets outside the EU, and to continue to ensure these requirements are also met by following the Recommended Usage restrictions. For instance Mancozeb to the Canadian market has a recommended usage restriction as follows: “*Not later than end December and only where packhouses have either a non-recycling high pressure spray or non-recycling Deccosol foam curtain and regular (twice daily) cleaning of brushes*”. The next edition of the Recommended Usage Restrictions of Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus is due in May 2013.

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