



Consumer Assurance Update

Indian residue requirements

Exporters delivering fruit to India alerted CGA on 23rd June to a revised application of the Indian Food Safety Act (2006). Although more details are being gathered it would appear that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are no longer recognizing the Codex Alimentarius maximum residue levels in the absence of a published Indian MRL. The issue seemed to initially impact on apples from the USA but the approach now extends to other fruit kinds from other countries. The specific issue is that fruit treated with Thiabendazole will no longer be compliant to Indian food safety regulations on arrival, and growers using a standard declaration to indicate such post-harvest treatments on the cartons may face problems. SA growers and exporters are being alerted to this recent change and are advised to engage with their receiver in India in order to determine the suitability of current imports to India. DAFF: Food Safety and Quality Assurance has been engaged to address the matter with FSSAI. CGA and CRI will also be revising the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus* accordingly. These changes follow the recent adoption of labelling requirements by FSSAI as highlighted in Cutting Edge 179.

EU Guazatine MRL Situation

A World Trade Organization notification (G/SPS/N/EU/70) published 4th April 2014 indicated that the EU had proposed reducing the citrus Guazatine MRL from 5.0 mg/kg to 0.5 mg/kg, with potential trade disruption at the end of the current export season. With the help of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Department of Trade and Industry, CGA and the applicant seeking to retain the MRL as an Import Tolerance at 5.0 mg/kg, we were able to avert a situation where the MRL is reduced for a short time, only to be increased if the Import Tolerance application is accepted. On the 13th June 2014 the Standing Committee decided to delay their decision on the proposal until September 2014 to allow EFSA to complete their risk assessment. CGA appreciates the efforts by DAFF and DTI to achieve this decision. CGA continues to hope that the data submitted by the applicant to the EU will be sufficient to retain the MRL and will await the outcome of the EFSA process and decisions by the Standing Committee in September 2014.

Perchlorate residue in the EU

Following the earlier communication in Cutting Edge 179 on chlorate and perchlorate residues in the EU, where it was indicated that the EU Standing Committee on Pesticide residues would be voting on residue tolerance limits for these substances, the following can be reported. With some EU Member States doubting whether a level of 0.1 mg/kg was actually practical, the Commission's proposal was blocked. Therefore in the meantime the MRL will not be changed and a default MRL of 0.01 mg/kg would remain in place. However, since the guideline level of 0.5 mg/kg for monitoring purposes (which was the existing temporary guideline level) was also not agreed to it now leaves the decision to Member States on which residue levels to adopt for compliance purposes. This issue will be further discussed at the next Standing Committee meeting in September 2014. For now it would be advisable that exporters speak to their receivers and perhaps conduct some residue tests on fruit arriving in the EU in order to assess the likely impact of different regulatory standards going forward. Please share these results with CGA to enable CGA to understand the trade implication of revised new levels.

SOPP residue in the EU

Concern had been raised about the status of the SOPP MRL in the EU of 5.0 mg/kg. It can be confirmed that the Standing Committee have voted to extend this existing MRL (for a few years potentially) until the completion of EFSA's review of the active under Article 12 of 1107/2009/EC. This decision to retain the existing MRL for now is expected to be published in the Official Journal shortly.

Compiled by
Paul Hardman
CGA