



Update on the Guazatine EU MRL

Guazatine EU MRL Update

Recent publications around potential changes to the EU Guazatine MRL and the tolerance for Guazatine residues on imported citrus highlight the need for clarification on the actual status of the EU MRL and the transition to any new MRLs for citrus if and when applicable. This need is more apparent after the Spanish citrus associations sent out a Guazatine alert document with a number of inaccuracies to the European distribution channels. The facts in this matter are as follows:

- The EU Guazatine MRL on citrus of 5.0 mg/kg remains in force until further notice. This means the use of Guazatine in accordance with South African authorizations and the EU MRL is permitted.
- If there are to be any future changes to the MRL, the EU will be obliged to publish in the Official Journal and specify when such changes may come into effect. After the date of official publication a phase-in period of six months is provided, to enable importing countries to comply. Provision for a phase-in period is expected here given that no specific health concerns have been raised that would trigger any more urgent measures.

- This means that in practice the very earliest that any potential change in the MRL (if any) may potentially become effective is September 2015 but probably later in 2015.
- Furthermore, it should be noted that the basis for a proposed reduction of the MRL has been a matter of engagement between South Africa and the Commission, including making all relevant submissions via appropriate WTO notification procedures.
- Potential changes to the MRL are not a matter of any specific health concerns. In fact the EFSA report published in August 2014 indicates in the abstract: *...the indicative consumer risk assessment did not identify a consumer health risk for the reported post-harvest use of guazatine acetates on citrus fruits imported from South Africa...*

CGA/CRI believe it would be prudent to await official notification of changes (if any) to the MRL before making decisions to potentially change the use of Guazatine given the important role this active plays in reducing post-harvest waste on citrus fruit exported to the EU.

Compiled by
Paul Hardman
CGA