



Further Update on Citrus Waxes and Declarations

During 2015 and into 2016 CGA/CRI have been engaging with and communicating to the Southern African citrus industry about the unique and specific post-harvest treatment declaration requirements in each citrus export market (i.e. Cutting Edges 200, 202 & 207). This exercise has taken a look at which products are permitted per market. This is an ongoing process but has encouraged packhouse managers to look at current use and labelling practices and begin to adapt these, where applicable, in order to comply with local and import requirements.

Canada

It had originally been communicated that only Carnauba (E903) and Shellac (E904) waxes were permitted in Canada. Wax suppliers have indicated that the Polyethylene waxes (E914) can and are in fact used. However use is conditional on compliance with general food safety rules.

Specially, for all waxes used on citrus entering Canada it is appropriate to confirm that these waxes are unlikely to cause any harm. If a substance is not listed in the Canadian Food and Drug Regulations (Division 16 Tables) the Canadian Food Inspection Agency advises that, prior to using the product, confirmation is received from Health Canada's Bureau of Chemical Safety for the status of the product. This confirmation is usually in the form of a Letter of Opinion and provides an indication of the regulatory status of the product in terms of the Food and Drug Regulations.

The onus falls on the supplier of the wax to provide the Letter of Opinion and assurance to the client that the use of their product is in accordance with the Food and Drug Regulations.

Furthermore, it has emerged that the declaration of the use of the wax is not mandatory for fruit and vegetables.

Run-off of old carton stock

CGA have confirmed with DAFF: FSQA that old cartons bearing declarations that include "AND/OR" can be used in 2016 provided these cartons are not used for the UK. No new cartons are permitted to have "AND/OR" in the declaration.

General

The release of Cutting Edges 200, 202 and 207 triggered a great deal of discussion and labelling practices have begun to changing accordingly. This is an ongoing exercise and CGA/CRI would appeal to all parties to engage in the process. In particular it would be helpful building on current knowledge of the requirements in "new" or less traditional markets, where currently it is difficult to obtain the specific requirements from the law (e.g. it is difficult to interpret the requirements due to language barriers).

CGA/CRI therefore appeals to citrus industry stakeholders to make comments and suggestions to Paul Hardman on any new items or issues that emerge in relation to post-harvest treatment labelling. This case of the Polyethylene wax above is a good example where more information creates more certainty about the market requirements.

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CGA