



EU Chlorpyrifos MRLs

Over the last fortnight CGA has been called upon to respond to questions regarding Chlorpyrifos use on fruit destined for the EU. These queries stem from retailers reacting to a recent (2nd August 2019) publication by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) highlighting potential human health concerns associated with Chlorpyrifos use. The EFSA statement was issued in light of a request by the EU Commission for EFSA to consider the available data on Chlorpyrifos, and whether this active was likely to be authorized for use within the EU beyond January 2020 (when Chlorpyrifos' authorization is due to expire in the EU).

In summary, EFSA indicated they had identified some human health concerns and the data did not meet the new criteria for authorization of Chlorpyrifos in the EU. There has been no further official communication from the Commission on this matter, but it is expected the Commission will deal with it in the normal course of a review of active substances. This most likely means:

The Commission will draft a proposal to revise the MRLs for consideration at the next Standing Committee on Pesticide residues (due to take place 21st & 22nd October 2019).

If member states endorse the proposal there, a WTO notification will follow and third countries will have 60 days to respond.

Unless there are comments provided via the WTO to persuade the Commission otherwise, it is expected the Standing Committee of Pesticide residues will vote on the revised MRLs in January 2020. Typically revised MRLs will take 60 days to come into effect after publication of MRLs in the Official Journal.

CGA/CRI intend to make no changes to the Recommended Usage Restrictions until the official EU Chlorpyrifos MRLs are changed. However further engagement with the Commission is taking place and citrus growers will be advised of any developments as these become available, given the need to plan for the 2020 crop.

For now, EU MRLs for Chlorpyrifos of 1.5 mg/kg remain in place (as published in May 2018). This is well above the 0.3 mg/kg RSA MRL.

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