



Cutting Edge / Snykant

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
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Dear Citrus Growers

Notice of change to the Fenpropathrin (Meothrin) usage restriction for citrus.

Appropriate changes to the current usage restrictions for Fenpropathrin on citrus are required given the evolving situation around the Fenpropathrin Maximum Residue Level (MRL) applicable to the EU and specifically the UK. This notice is of particular relevance to, but not limited to, Western Cape citrus growers.

Background

Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) in the UK maintained a policy that accepted the country of origin's MRL in the absence of a UK national MRL. In the case of Fenpropathrin on SA citrus exported to the UK this resulted in the use of the SA MRL of 0.5ppm.

In 2004, however, new EU legislation aimed at fast-tracking the harmonizing of MRLs across Europe began (ultimately this legislation became 396/2005/EC). Part of this process was to take the EU member states' national MRLs, analyse and compare them, and convert the most appropriate national MRL into an EU Temporary Harmonized MRLs. Since PSD had been recognizing the MRLs of their trading partners, as explained above, but had never converted these tolerances into their own UK legislation, a situation was created where the list of UK national MRLs did not adequately reflect what was being applied in practice.

During the 2003/2004 season CGA/CRI discussed a solution to this problem with PSD, and at PSD's request provided a list of South African MRLs. Where applicable, PSD included these SA MRLs as part of their submission to the EU commission as if they were UK national MRLs. CGA/CRI understand that a 0.5ppm Fenpropathrin MRL on citrus was put forward by PSD.

The expectation during this exercise was that the new EU harmonized MRLs would be adopted by mid – 2005, and therefore it made very little sense to adopt these MRLs as national MRLs within the UK. An awkward situation has now arisen given the delay in

implementation of 396/2005/EC – which is now forecast for completion only late in 2007!

While the 0.5ppm has been acceptable to date, UK authorities have indicated they cannot continue to apply a MRL of 0.5ppm without this MRL being recognized within their own UK food safety legislation. As an additional consideration, the growing pressure by consumer groups on retailers to adhere to food safety regulations cannot be ignored, and this is placing pressure on growers to apply the UK national MRLs. CGA were also recently alerted to incidences of Fenpropathrin residues being detected (but below 0.5ppm) in the UK leading to concern by the importers.

New Usage Restriction

Given the above, the *Recommended usage restrictions for plant protection products on SA citrus exports* will be amended to reflect the following usage restriction for Fenpropathrin:

185d PHI, except for fruit destined of Spain, Italy and Belgium, and soft citrus to Korea where "28d PHI as registered" applies.

For USA: 28d PHI as registered

FCM Control

Discussions with experts working in the Western Cape suggest that depending on which FCM approach the growers have adopted, in the Western Cape Fenpropathrin is usually applied either (1) between an earlier and then later Cryptogran application, or (2) following a mating disruption program (and is applied about a month before harvest). In both cases the Fenpropathrin spray could be replaced by a Cryptogran or Cypermethrin application. Please contact Hendrik Hofmeyr (022 9212618), Sean Moore (041-5835524), or Sakkie Bruwer (083-2262540) for more information.

Looking forward

Besides the CGA/CRI interaction with PSD, it is understood that a complete data package has been generated to support an Import Tolerance for Fenpropathrin on citrus by Sumitomo. Once the data package has been evaluated by the EU authorities it could lead to a permanent Fenpropathrin MRL on citrus in



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the EU, that would supersede the Temporary Harmonized MRL that should be set under 396/2005/EC (in 2007 or 2008). Therefore CGA/CRI are hopeful that a additional usage restrictions on Fenprothrin for citrus destined to the UK is a temporary measure that can be relaxed in future.

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