



Cutting Edge / Snykant

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
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Dear Growers

Cautionary Notice Regarding the UK Fenpropathrin MRL.

Growers exporting citrus to the UK should take note of a potentially problematic situation that has arisen regarding the UK Fenpropathrin MRL. CGA received communication on the 8th February 2007 indicating a Fenpropathrin UK Import Tolerance of 2.0 ppm had been set for citrus by the UK Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD). Growers were accordingly advised of this amendment in Cutting Edge No 52. The setting of such an UK Import Tolerance allowed for a relaxation of the Fenpropathrin usage restriction on citrus fruit destined for the UK. Some fruit potentially destined for the UK may subsequently have been sprayed.

On the 6th March 2007 CGA/CRI were alerted to communication which stated that PSD had reconsidered their position on the setting of an UK Import Tolerance. CGA immediately contacted PSD to obtain clarification on their position.

A reply from PSD was received on the 7th March 2007, indicating that while no statutory UK MRL is currently in place for Fenpropathrin, the UK would normally only block imports that pose a risk to consumers under the UK Food Safety Act. The PSD confirmed that they have conducted a risk assessment on Fenpropathrin, and this indicated that there would be no undue risk associated with a 2.0 ppm UK Import Tolerance.

Normally PSD would notify of an UK Import Tolerances via their website, which may have provided additional reassurance to consumers and retailers in this case. However, PSD have decided not to list the UK Import Tolerance on their website until a query about their risk assessment, raised by the UK Food Standards Agency, has been resolved.

To summarize the situation then: there is currently no statutory UK MRLs for Fenpropathrin on citrus; PSD is satisfied that residues below 2 ppm pose no risk to

consumers; PSD will not list the 2 ppm UK Import Tolerance on their website until the Food Standards Agency's query about the PSD risk assessment has been addressed. Obviously CGA/CRI will contact both PSD and the Food Standards Agency to encourage immediate resolution of this issue.

In the interim therefore, there is no absolute certainty on how fruit detected with Fenpropathrin residues will be handled in the UK. Yet there is naturally an expectation that PSD, as the monitoring and enforcing authority for pesticide residue legislation in the UK, and the organization deeming citrus fruit that has residues below 2.0 ppm to pose no undue risk to consumers, may permit fruit onto the market where fruit has residues below 2.0 ppm. (Growers will be aware that the General Export Tolerance for Fenpropathrin on export citrus from South Africa is 0.5 ppm, well below the 2.0 ppm level).

Given the above situation, CGA/CRI recommends that growers refrain from further use of Fenpropathrin on fruit potentially destined for the UK until further notice. The inopportune potential disruption to False Codling Moth control programs is recognised.

Furthermore, CGA would encourage growers to discuss this issue with their respective receivers in the UK advising them of their particular situation. Should these receivers require additional information they can contact myself or Prof Vaughan Hattingh (CRI). Additional clarity on how PSD will handle any residue detections should be directed to PSD on a case by case basis.

Kind regards

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