



Cutting Edge / Snykant

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Revised EU Temporary MRL set for Carbendazim on Citrus

Dear Citrus Growers

CGA would like to draw growers' attention to recent amendments to the EU Carbendazim (Benomyl) MRL published on the 26th February 2007 (Directive 2007/12/EC). A revised level of 0.5 ppm has been set as a temporary MRL. This is a positive move by the EU Pesticide Residue Committee in response to the inputs made by CGA and CRI to accommodate the use of carbendazim in third countries and should be seen as one step in a process of reinstating the long-term use of carbendazim sprays.

In practice, however, there will be no immediate benefit from the revised MRL for SA citrus growers due to the timing of this directive. EU member states are only compelled to apply the new level from the 28th August 2007. This means fruit treated with carbendazim may only be placed on the EU market after 28th August 2007. Furthermore, few carbendazim sprays will be applied after February (in the current season) anyway. CGA/CRI will therefore not change the *Recommended usage restrictions for plant protection products on southern African citrus exports* where the current restriction of "Not later than 90% petal fall" for the EU applies.

This temporary MRL for carbendazim on citrus will expire on the 31 December 2007 unless CGA/CRI submits further supportive data showing appropriate Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). CGA/CRI has been generating such data over the last three years and a completed dossier will be submitted before the December 2007 deadline.

Once the EU Pesticide Residue Committee has considered the GAP data and are satisfied that it meets the technical requirements for supporting a harmonized EU MRL, the

temporary MRL may be changed into an EU Harmonized MRL for carbendazim on citrus. Again a conservative timeline for this process is appropriate, which may mean that the EU Harmonized MRL is only set in late 2008.

Growers can be assured CGA/CRI continues to apply pressure and offer assistance wherever necessary to advance the process of setting an EU harmonized MRL for carbendazim on citrus.

Kind regards

Paul Hardman
CGA
ph@cga.co.za