



Cutting Edge / Snykant

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
NAVORSINGSNUUS VAN CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

January/Januarie 2008

No / Nr 59

Update on Carbendazim (Benomyl) EU MRL

CGA have received informal correspondence from the EU authorities regarding the future status of the EU Carbendazim (Benomyl) MRL for citrus. Unfortunately the news is not promising.

Germany, the Rapporteur for Carbendazim, evaluated the trial data submitted in September 2007 by South Africa. Their findings were discussed by the EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain on 18/19 December 2007. The German conclusion, based on the trial data provided, was that the proposed GAP for a pre-harvest interval of 60 days is unlikely to result in residues below 0.5 mg/kg as anticipated. Their opinion is the GAP will likely only result in residues below 0.7 mg/kg. For oranges, however, the conservative safety calculations show that there is a risk for the consumer (in particular children) at 0.7 mg/kg.

Therefore, the informal indication is that the future Carbendazim tolerance will remain at the current MRL of 0.1 mg/kg for oranges. For all other citrus crops the EU Carbendazim MRL will likely be fixed at 0.7 mg/kg. These changes will take effect 6 months after official notification is received (therefore probably not effective before July 2008).

These developments are very disappointing given the considerable effort and resources ploughed into gaining an EU MRL for

Carbendazim on citrus. CGA/CRI must still determine the most appropriate course of action going forward, which may include re-submitting data showing a more restrictive GAP (90 days PHI). Growers will be kept informed accordingly.

Alternatives to Carbendazim sprays can be discussed with Tian Schutte at CRI (013 759 8000).

Usage Restrictions:

Given the situation explained above the Recommended Usage Restrictions will remain unchanged:

All Markets except where other restrictions are specified: 14d PHI as registered for Middle East and Korea, and not later than 90% petal fall for others including EU.

Canada: 14d PHI as registered.

USA: 60d PHI as registered.

Japan: 14d PHI as registered.

Kind regards

Paul Hardman
CGA
031 765 8029