

Cutting Edge / Snykant

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
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Update on EU MRL status for some Plant Protection Products

From a recent EU visit undertaken by Vaughan Hattingh and Paul Hardman, to engage with EU Regulatory bodies, new information can be provided regarding the current MRL status of a number of Plant Protection Products on citrus. This new information has been taken into account while compiling the September 2008 edition of the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus*.

It is worthwhile pointing out that the procedure to approve an MRL change has been lengthened in the EU. This process is laid out here in order to show the estimated time-frames associated with an amendment process.

Changes to the approval process for MRL changes after the 1st September 2008

Any future changes to EU MRLs will be subjected to a more lengthy technical and administrative process. Essentially once the trigger for MRL change has been pulled, and assuming data are available to be analyzed:

- 1) The Rapporteur will evaluate the proposed new MRL (4 months).
- 2) The proposed MRL will be submitted to EFSA for a scientific opinion (2 months).
- 3) Should EFSA be satisfied that the proposed MRL poses no undue risk to consumers, the Commission will recommend the changes to the EU Parliament and await comments. Parliament is given 2 months to comment.
- 4) Should no material objections arise through the parliament comment process, notification of trading partners will be provided via the WTO notification process (2 months).
- 5) Should no major problems arise through the WTO notification process, the Commission will amend Regulation 396/2005/EC accordingly, and unless this is an urgent change to the MRL (food safety concern), provide for a phase in period (6 months).
- 6) Total: 16 months.

Malathion/Mercaptothion

CGA/CRI have submitted an application to Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) in the UK (as Rapporteur) to set an EU Import Tolerance (July 2008). PSD indicated that this application unfortunately will be subjected to the new

procedures explained above, and this means that the Import Tolerance is unlikely to be set before the next production season. In fact, the data would have had to have been submitted in 2007 at the latest to set an Import Tolerance for the 2009 season. However, the early review and revoking of the harmonised EU MRL was only made known in 2008. Fortunately, as a pre-emptive safety measure, CGA/CRI began generating relevant Malathion data from the 2005/6 and 2006/7 seasons. These data made it possible to submit the requisite data package in 2008, in support of an application for an Import Tolerance.

Nonetheless, the Malathion MRL on Citrus will unfortunately decline to 0.01 mg/kg on the 31st January 2009. To achieve residues below this level, a **28d PHI will apply**. If the application for an import tolerance is successful, it is expected that the MRL will again be adjusted upwards and the usage restriction relaxed, but this will not be in time for the 2009 export season.

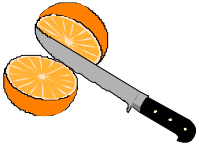
For late season bait spray options for the control of Fruit Fly, growers will need to use alternative products such as Trichlorfon or Spinosad. Should you have any queries regarding Fruit Fly control please contact Aruna Manrakhan or Tim Grout (013-7598000).

Carbendazim

The current EU MRL for carbendazim is 0.5 mg/kg for all exported citrus types. CGA/CRI also generated a relevant data package and submitted an application for establishment of an EU MRL for carbendazim. This resulted in a recent WTO notification by the EU, indicating new proposed values of 0.7 mg/kg for lemons, grapefruit and soft citrus, and 0.2 mg/kg for oranges (at Step 4 per timeframe above). However, since these changes would also be subjected to the remaining step, the current 0.5 mg/kg will remain in force until further notice.

Due to the fact that the date on which the proposed new MRL will replace the existing MRL, CGA/CRI have been compelled to take a conservative approach in the Recommended Usage Restrictions. The following restrictions will therefore apply:

- **General Export Tolerance:** 90d PHI for Grapefruit, Lemons and Soft Citrus, 120d PHI oranges.
- **Middle East and Korea:** 14d PHI as registered.



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- **CODEX:** Not later than 90% petal fall
- **Canada:** 14d PHI as registered.
- **USA:** 90d PHI.
- **Japan:** 14d PHI as registered.

Bromopropylate/Acarol

Growers are reminded that use of Bromopropylate is no longer recommended after 90% petal fall.

Fenproprathrin/Meothrin

The publishing of an EU Import Tolerance for Fenproprathrin, again with data contributions having been made by CGA/CRI, means that the current recommended usage restriction can be relaxed as follows:

- **General Export Tolerance:** 28d PHI as registered.
- **Korea:** 28d PHI as registered for soft citrus and 185d PHI for other citrus.

This MRL became effective from 1st September 2008.

Guazatine

A harmonized EU Import Tolerance of 5.0 mg/kg has been adopted for all Member States. This Import Tolerance became effective from 1st September 2008. The applicable General Export Tolerance that applies for post-harvest is to use as registered. Notice of additional restrictions applicable to other markets should be considered (refer to Recommended Usage Restrictions document of September 2008).

Pyriproxyfen/Nemesis

The publishing of an EU Import Tolerance for Pyriproxyfen means the current recommended usage restriction can be relaxed as follows:

- **General Export Tolerance:** 60d PHI as registered.
- **Korea:** 120d PHI.
- **Canada:** 120d PHI.

This MRL became effective from 1st September 2008.

Buprofezin/Applaud

The publishing of an EU Import Tolerance for Buprofezin, again with the contribution of data generated by CGA/CRI, means the current recommended usage restriction can be relaxed as follows:

- **General Export Tolerance:** 45d PHI as registered.
- **Middle East:** 45d PHI as registered.

- **CODEX:** 45d PHI as registered for oranges, not later than mid-October for grapefruit, and not later than 90% petal fall for lemons and soft citrus.

This MRL became effective from 1st September 2008.

Triflumuron/Alsystin

The publishing of an EU Import Tolerance for Triflumuron, again with the contribution of data generated by CGA/CRI means the current recommended usage restriction can be relaxed as follows:

- **General Export Tolerance:** Not later than 90% petal fall for lemons and 30d PHI as registered for other citrus.
- **Middle East:** 30d PHI as registered.
- **Korea:** Not later than 90% petal fall
- **CODEX:** Not later than 90% petal fall
- **Canada:** 60d PHI
- **USA:** Not permitted
- **Japan:** Not later than 90% petal fall

This MRL became effective from 1st September 2008.

The number and significance of the changes reflected in the September 2008 edition of the *Recommended Usage Restrictions* document highlight the enormous value captured through CGA/CRI developing direct contact with the EU Regulatory bodies to get first-hand information about the MRL-setting process, and to have proactively generated residue data (since 2004) to retain the use of critically important active ingredients for Southern African citrus producers.

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