



# Cutting Edge

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

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## Use of sanitizers in packhouses packing citrus fruit for Japan

Dear citrus growers, packhouse managers and exporters,

Having received correspondence from the South African Embassy in Tokyo this morning CGA would like update citrus growers on recent developments around the Japanese authority's consideration of the use of sanitizers in packhouses packing fruit for Japan.

As indicated in Cutting Edge 89 the focus of the engagement with the Japanese has been whether or not the use of QACs in citrus packhouses should be deemed a transgression of the Japanese Food Additives legislation. Early in the engagement process the Japanese authorities (MHLW) made it very clear that any transgression of the Food Additives legislation would be seen as a violation of Japanese Food Safety Law. The consequence of a violation is the immediate recall of fruit already in the market and the prohibition of sale of any further fruit suspected to have been treated with an unauthorised chemical.

In MHLW's investigation into this matter it became necessary for CGA/CRI and

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to respond to a number of rounds of questions posed by the Japanese.

Today (6 Aug 2009) the SA Embassy indicated MHLW officials were satisfied that sufficient information had been made available to them to make a decision regarding fruit packed in packhouses using sanitizers. It remains unclear as to when a final decision will be made. In the view of the SA Embassy it would seem a final decision is unlikely before the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009 given upcoming religious and summer holidays.

Kind regards  
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