



## Update on Propiconazole EU MRL

### EU MRL

The EU has now published legislation to lower the EU Propiconazole MRL for citrus (Regulation EC/155/2021). The regulation was published 9th February 2021 and comes into effect 20 days later, and the new MRLs apply from the 2nd September 2021.

This means that all fruit on the market from the 2nd September 2021 must have residues below 0.01 mg/kg. This level is also applied for fruit arriving in Ireland. Packhouse managers and exporters need to take the entire storage and shipping times into account when calculating when Propiconazole usage in the packhouse should be stopped to ensure only compliant fruit is on the market at that time.

Cross contamination concerns: CGA has learnt that EU citrus packhouses that stopped Propiconazole applications continued to find low levels of residue months after the last treatments, presumably due to cross contamination in the packhouse. Please speak to the CRI postharvest team about practices to ensure pack lines are cleaned and free from Propiconazole. This also means if there are any doubts about when to stop using Propiconazole during this season, a more conservative approach is strongly recommended.

### United Kingdom (UK) MRLs

While the UK Propiconazole MRLs are expected to be reviewed in due course (given that Propiconazole authorizations were withdrawn prior to the UK leaving the EU) at this stage there has been no confirmation exactly when this will happen in the UK. It is reasonable to expect that the UK will not publish lower MRLs sooner than the 2nd September 2021.

What may also transpire is that the UK MRLs are not revised for some time which would mean Propiconazole use for UK fruit could continue. However, given that few packhouses pack for the UK alone, the EU MRLs will probably dictate the Propiconazole usage pattern. CGA/CRI will keep growers updated on developments in the UK.

Compiled by  
Paul Hardman  
CGA