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CONSUMER ASSURANCE UPDATE

South Korean MRLs

It has been brought to the CGA attention that some Korean MRLs should be updated in the *Recommended Usage Restrictions of Plant Protection Products on southern African Export Citrus (RUR)*; this Cutting Edge seeks to alert growers and exporters to these MRL changes before the next publication is finalized.

These changes had been anticipated and taken into account, but are being highlighted here so that producers or exporters can evaluate whether they are likely to have any issues in South Korea on account of these amendments.

What is somewhat perplexing is that temporary MRLs remain on the Korean MFDS website after the 1st January 2022, when it was expected that temporary MRLs would be lowered to 0.01 mg/kg. It is unclear if this is just an oversight and the website has not been updated, or in fact the temporary MRLs remain applicable. Nevertheless, a more cautious approach is prudent and has been adopted here. The following changes will be made to the RUR:

- **Acephate:** A temporary MRL of 5.0 mg/kg for all lemons, oranges and grapefruit is published, however it would be prudent to change this value to 0.01 mg/kg given that there is no indication of an Import Tolerance application to retain the MRL. The corresponding usage restriction is "70d PHI for lemons, oranges and grapefruit and 40d PHI for soft citrus".
- **Avermectin:** An MRL of 0.02 mg/kg for lemons, 0.05 mg/kg for oranges, 0.01 mg/kg for grapefruit and 0.07 mg/kg for mandarins apply. No changes to the usage restriction are required.
- **Chlorantraniliprole:** An MRL of 1.0 mg/kg is added for lemons. No changes to the usage restrictions are required.
- **Cyhexatin:** A temporary MRL of 2.0 mg/kg is published for grapefruit, lemons and oranges. It would be prudent to change this value to 0.01 mg/kg, given that there is no indication of an Import Tolerance application to retain the MRL. No changes to the usage restrictions are required.
- **Cypermethrin**: An MRL of 1.5 mg/kg applies for lemons. No changes to the usage restrictions are required.
- **Dithiocarbamate**: A lemon MRL of 3.0 mg/kg applies (previously 5.0 mg/kg). No changes to the usage restrictions are required.
- **Etoxazole:** An MRL of 0.7 mg/kg applies for lemons, and 0.01 mg/kg applies for oranges and grapefruit. The corresponding usage restriction for oranges and grapefruit is "not later than 90% petal fall", but exporters are encouraged to evaluate historic residues levels to evaluate whether the fruit is suitable for this market.
- **Fosetyl-Al**: An MRL of 0.01 mg/kg applies for lemon and grapefruit (previously 0.05 mg/kg). No changes to the usage restrictions are required. RB1 uses are not expected to lead to problematic residues.
- **Kresoxim-methyl:** An MRL of 0.01 mg/kg applies for oranges, grapefruit and lemons with a corresponding usage restriction of "not later than 90% petal fall".
- **Metalaxyl-M:** An MRL of 0.01 mg/kg applies for all citrus. The corresponding usage restriction will be "not later than 90% petal fall".
- **Pyrethrins**: A temporary MRL of 1.0 mg/kg appears on the MFDS website, however it would be prudent to change this value to 0.01 mg/kg given that there is no indication of an Import Tolerance application to retain the MRL. The corresponding usage restriction will be "not later than 90% petal fall".
- **Spinetoram**: An MRL of 0.05 mg/kg applies to lemons and 0.01 mg/kg applies for grapefruit (previously not explicitly indicated). The appropriate usage restriction will be "14d PHI for grapefruit and lemons and 7d PHI as registered for other citrus".
- **"None" replaced with 0.01 mg/kg:** In the RUR document CGA have previously indicated "none" where no South Korean MRL was set, or CGA may not have been explicit if no positive MRL was set. In these cases, the default of 0.01 mg/kg actually applies. The following actives will be updated and in each of these cases no changes to the recommended usage is required: Acrinathrin (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Azadirachtin, Buprofezin (grapefruit only), Cadusafos, Chlorfenapyr (grapefruit only), Clothianidin (grapefruit only), Copper, DDAC, Emamectin Benzoate (grapefruit only), Ethephon, Ethoprophos, Fipronil (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Formetanate, Fosthiazate, Furfural, Guazatine, Iprodione (oranges and grapefruit), Isazophos, Malathion (grapefruit and lemons), Methamidophos (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Methomyl (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Methyl-parathion, Parathion, Pirimicarb, Prochloraz (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Procymidone, Profenofos, Pymetrozine (grapefruit and oranges), Pyriproxyfen (grapefruit, lemons and oranges),

SOPP, Sulphur, Tartar-emetic, Tau-Fluvalinate, Tebuconazole (grapefruit and oranges), Temephos, Terbufos, Tetradifon (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Thiacloprid (grapefruit only), Thiophanate-Methyl (grapefruit and oranges), Trichlorfon (grapefruit only), Triflumuron, Trichlopyr (grapefruit, lemons and oranges) and Uniconazole.

- **Alignment with All markets usage restriction:** For the following actives, the Korean MRL is now aligned with the general export tolerance and in each of these cases no changes to the recommended usage is required: Amitraz (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Azinphos-methyl, Chinomethionat, Dichlorvos (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Dicofol, Dimethoate, Endosulfan, Fenamiphos, Fenbutatin oxide, Flutriafol (grapefruit and oranges), Methiocarb (grapefruit, lemons and oranges), Permethrin and Prothiofos.

Update on the EU Mancozeb MRL

Growers that are planning spray programmes for 2022/2023 have been making enquires around the status of the EU Mancozeb MRL in order to determine whether Mancozeb can be included in CBS spray programmes for next year or not. CGA and the main suppliers have already been communicating around this and the message remains the same for now. The current state of play is as follows:

- The EU are continuing with the risk assessments and review of the Dithiocarbamate (CS_2) MRLs. This a rather complicated process given the need to assess the different metabolites and their sources (Mancozeb, Maneb, Metiram, Ziram, etc.) of CS2 residues. The latest expectation from the EU Commission is that this work will be completed by August 2022 (originally the date had been September 2022).
- Effectively, what the EU Commission must resolve is whether there are any uses of dithiocarbamates that will lead to residues that can be considered safe, otherwise the current MRLs (5.0 mg/kg) will be withdrawn and default level of 0.01 mg/kg will come into play.
- Once the results of the EU Risk Assessments become available, the Commission will then initiate a process to formally revise the MRLs (i.e. formalize proposals, WTO Notifications, etc.). It is only at this stage that CGA will be able to be sure what the intentions of the Commission are regarding future MRL values. The publication of the MRLs usually takes several months and then a phase in period of six months is typical. Thus, changes to the MRL should be expected in 2023.
- CGA/CRI have been communicating with the EU Commission and advising them of the importance of Mancozeb in CBS sprays, and the fact that South Africa are making an Import Tolerance application. This project is ongoing, but the results will only be available later in the year due to a range of challenges with the project. The expectation is that a tolerance well below 5.0 mg/kg would be sufficient for all meaningful uses of Mancozeb on southern African citrus and this is what should be recognized by the Commission. CGA trust this is being taken into consideration during its risk assessment process.

Growers will be informed of any developments that will provide any further information on the future status of the Mancozeb tolerances in the EU.

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