



## Consumer Assurance Update – March 2023

### Update of the Recommended Usage Restrictions

Edition 54 (March 2023) of the Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus is now available.

The most important changes in this edition include:

- Recognizing the pre-harvest registration of Pyrimethanil as a control option for Botrytis grey mould (see Cutting Edge No 355 Management of Botrytis grey mould in orchards).
- Addition of dipotassium phosphate to be more explicit in the document about its registration status – the actual registration status has not changed.
- Update of the CODEX Fenpyroximate MRLs for citrus.

### Update on Dithiocarbamates (Mancozeb) MRLs in the EU

In recent engagement with the EU Commission, it was confirmed that the risk management discussion and review of the MRLs would only begin once the EFSA Reasoned Opinion on the dithiocarbamates (CS2) MRLs has been concluded. Apparently, EFSA is close to providing this Reasoned Opinion.

It had been hoped that the extended authorization of metiram for use within the EU until January 2024 might delay the MRL review discussion, but according to the Commission, this is unlikely. The current expectation now is that new proposed MRLs will be not be considered and voted on before September 2023, and any new MRLs will be in force at the very earliest mid-2024.

CGA and partners are concluding the exercise to generate the residue breakdown data for the Import Tolerance application. The main findings in the data package will be known to the EU Commission by September 2023. However, they have indicated they will only be able to conduct a full assessment of the data package later. How this will influence the MRL-setting process is unclear.

### EU Benomyl/Carbendazim MRL

The minutes of the Standing Committee dealing with pesticide residues (MRLs) – SCOPAFF – indicated that new revised MRLs are likely to be voted on in September 2023 for Benomyl/Carbendazim/Thiophanate-methyl. These lower MRLs (expected to be set at Level of Detection) will apply from mid-2024. CGA has a

meeting with the Commission in April 2023 to confirm these revised MRLs and timelines.

### EU Thiabendazole (TBZ) MRL

The citrus industry should be aware that the TBZ MRL is also under consideration by the EU Commission. The engagement with the Commission in April 2023 is expected to provide some insight into the future MRL status of TBZ for the EU market.

### EU: Actives under review

A number of actives are either having their EU authorizations reviewed or MRL are up for consideration within SCOPAFF. In some cases this might be MRLs for other commodities besides citrus, but during their evaluation insights into the Commission's assessment of the active can be obtained. The following actives are being assessed: Abamectin, Copper compounds, Dichlorprop-p, Etoxazole, Fenpyroximate, Fosetyl, Malathion, Metalaxyl-M, Methomyl, Methoxyfenozide, Phosphonates (when used as biostimulants), Pyrethroids, Pyrimethanil, Pyriproxyfen, Spinetoram, Spinosad, Trichlopyr and Trifloxystrobin. CGA is hoping the authorization for many of these substances will be renewed and there will be no impact on the MRL. Confirmation of this is expected during the April 2023 meeting.

Kind regards  
Paul Hardman