



The EU Carbendazim/Benomyl MRL

CGA has been tracking the EU carbendazim/benomyl MRLs and indicated the EU's intention to lower the citrus MRLs in the CGA/CRI Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus (No. 55 of August 2023) along with communication in Cutting Edge 367 and 381.

At present, benomyl and carbendazim uses have all fallen under a single EU carbendazim residue definition – i.e. the EU carbendazim MRL has been applied for all applications of benomyl and carbendazim. The EU Commission is now proposing to set separate MRLs for benomyl and carbendazim. This change will have very little practical consequences for the SA citrus industry as benomyl is known to break down to carbendazim and therefore the carbendazim MRL is the relevant MRL to apply.

This proposal includes a carbendazim MRL for mandarins and lemons at 0.9 mg/kg (ppm), while the carbendazim MRLs for grapefruits and oranges are proposed to be lowered to 0.01 mg/kg. If this proposal is adopted the implication is that uses of benomyl and carbendazim on lemons and mandarins will be permissible while for oranges and grapefruit a restriction of not later than 90% petal fall will apply.

If adopted, the new MRLs for lemons and mandarins are expected to apply from January 2025. The carbendazim MRLs for oranges and grapefruit will apply from July 2024. Therefore, if adopted, all oranges and grapefruit in the EU market from July 2024 should comply with the new MRL (0.01 mg/kg).¹

Unfortunately, while a proposal to retain a positive carbendazim MRL in the EU for lemons and mandarins is positive news, the use of both benomyl and carbendazim is likely to be phased out in South Africa due to their hazard classification and the Registrar's intention to withdraw substances with this specific classification. This phasing out will prohibit any use of benomyl or carbendazim in South African citrus production.

The EU Cypermethrin MRL

The EU notified their intention to lower the cypermethrin MRLs to 0.005 mg/kg for oranges, 0.3 mg/kg for lemons and mandarins and 0.5 mg/kg for grapefruit. Should these new MRLs be adopted, a usage restriction of not later than 90% petal fall for oranges and 28d PHI as registered for other citrus will apply. This regulation is proposed to apply from October 2024. In other words, if published according to notified schedule, citrus fruit

in the EU market from October 2024 should comply with the lower MRLs.²

The EU Metalaxyl-M MRL

The EU notified their intention to lower the Metalaxyl-M MRL to 0.01 mg/kg for lemons and 0.4 mg/kg for mandarins. Should the new MRLs be adopted, a usage restriction of not later than 90% petal fall will apply for lemons. This regulation is proposed to apply from December 2024. In other words, if published according to notified schedule, citrus fruit in the EU market from December 2024 should comply with the lower MRLs.³

Communication from SIZA

We would like to point producers to the SIZA Producer Newsletter from December 2023 (Volume 12, Issue 7). It covers the outcome of the benchmarking process between the SIZA Environmental and LEAF Marque standards and the practicalities going forward. The letter also clarifies questions around the validity of certain GlobalG.A.P. standards, the overall compliance status of South African suppliers, guidelines to implementing a net-zero greenhouse gas emission strategy in your organisation and the recognition of third party auditors (in particular recognised by Tesco to perform SIZA Social audits in 2024).

1= WTO notification G/SPS/N/EU/696

2= WTO notification G/SPS/N/EU/702

3= WTO notification: G/SPS/N/EU/697

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