



CHEMICAL ADVISORY

January 21, 2009

The California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) is contacting you to remind you of ongoing issues that could result in maximum residue level (MRL) violations when exporting to foreign markets. Please review each of these issues to ensure that your firm is taking the necessary precautions to avoid trade impediments. In most cases a violation will impact only your firm, however in Japan more than one violation may trigger immediate industry-wide test and hold requirements.

CANADA

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has detected residues of dithiocarbamates on Valencia oranges and lemons entering Canada. This is a serious violation, since dithiocarbamates are not registered for use on citrus. CFIA has targeted specific growers for sampling and testing. Since dithiocarbamates are not registered on citrus fruits your firm may not be monitoring for the presence of this chemical, however be advised that CFIA is monitoring citrus imports for these residues. Some examples of dithiocarbamates include, but are not limited to, Thiram® and Ziram®.

SPIROTETRAMAT (MOVENTO™) AND SPINETORAM (DELEGATE™)

CCQC sent a chemical alert to the California citrus industry in May 2008 to advise the industry that Movento™ and Delegate™ MRLs were established in the United States and Canada, but MRLs were not yet available in important export markets, such as Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and Thailand or Codex. MRLs are still unavailable in these markets. If you plan to sell citrus fruit in any market other than the U.S. or Canada you should determine that the fruit does not have detectable residues of either of these pesticides on the fruit before shipment.

PENDIMETHALIN (PROWL® H2O)

Pendimethalin residues were detected in 2008 on citrus fruit exported to Japan. These residues were unexpected, since pendimethalin is an herbicide that had been used infrequently. However, a label change increased the use of this chemical and it is suspected that herbicide applications were made to the skirts of trees on some acreage. Please keep in mind that the Japanese MRL for pendimethalin of 0.05 ppm is half that of the U.S. MRL. Growers should take care to avoid making applications directly to the skirts of citrus trees and should consider testing fruit before shipment if full label rates and short preharvest label instructions are followed.

Please contact Jim Cranney or Carleen Price me by telephone at (503) 885-1894 or via e-mail at jcranney@calcitrusquality.org or cprice@calcitrusquality.org if you have any questions or need additional information.