

CDG HOS – Fruit & Vegetables sectors

18/10/16

5e) French ban on dimethoate on cherries

France notified the Commission on 29 March about their request to take an emergency measure under Art. 53 of Reg. (EC) No 178/2002 to ban the placing on the market of cherries originating from EU Member States or Third countries where the use of dimethoate containing plant protection products is authorised for cherries. A requirement for the requested emergency measures is that the food treated with the active substance is likely to cause a serious risk to human health, animal health or the environment. As the French measure refers to a human health risk, in order to assess whether this requirement was fulfilled, the Commission asked EFSA to draft a statement on this matter, which was published on 12 April 2016. Within the described deadline of 10 working days, the Commission organised a meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF)-section pesticides residues on 15 April 2016 to discuss the need for such an EU measure. In this meeting it was agreed among Member states not to adopt emergency measures and but to rather prioritise the MRL review following discussions in PAFF Committee section pesticides residues.

On 22 April France notified the Commission on a national emergency measure taken in accordance with Art. 54 of Reg. (EC) No 178/2002, suspending the importation and marketing in France of fresh cherries from other Member States of the European Union or from third countries where the use of PPPs containing the active substance dimethoate is allowed for the treatment of cherry trees. On 28 April 2016 a meeting of the PAFF Committee pesticides residues was organised to discuss the appropriate follow up. In this meeting it was confirmed that the MRL review should be prioritised in order to allow a decision on the MRLs based on a scientific review carried out by EFSA. As the cherry season is now at its end and as the French measure expires on 31 December 2016, we hope to take an appropriate EU measure based on the EFSA review of the MRLs, in order to avoid a situation similar to this one in next year's cherry season. The publication of the EFSA MRL review is expected by mid of November.

5g) Chlorate

Currently a consultation of the Cabinet of Commissioner Andriukaitis is ongoing on how to adequately address the problem of chlorate residues in food, including the possibilities of further discussing the chlorate residues in drinking water with DG ENV and possible actions in the area of food hygiene.