

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 4/4/2011

GAIN Report Number: HK1112

Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Preliminary List of Proposed Pesticide MRLs and EMRLs Available

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

FAIRS Subject Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Approved By:

Erich Kuss

Prepared By:

Caroline Yuen

Report Highlights:

The Hong Kong government (HKG) has released a preliminary list of proposed Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) for pesticide residues in food in Hong Kong. An updated list is expected to be available in July this year for public consultation. The HKG's establishing of the Pesticide List has been made with reference to the MRL standards of Codex, China, the U.S. and Thailand. While the HKG will try to set up a mechanism to keep the Hong Kong Pesticide List current with future Codex updates, it currently does not intend to incorporate any future updates by China, the U.S. and Thailand. However, the HKG has stated that it will consider applications to place additional pesticides on the list (after the establishment of the base list) with all applications being charged a fee on a cost recovery basis.

General Information:

Summary

The Hong Kong government (HKG) has released a preliminary list of proposed Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) for pesticide residues in food in Hong Kong. The HKG plans to conduct a public consultation on its proposed new Pesticide Regulation in July 2011 before introducing the Regulation to the Legislative Council in late 2011. While an **updated** list of and MRLs and EMRLs will be available for public consultation in July, a preliminary list is already released on the government's website:

http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/whatsnew_fstr/files/Draft_MRL_for_technical_meeting_2803_2011.pdf

Background

Hong Kong's upcoming Pesticide Regulation will be based on the following principles:

- Adoption of a 'positive list';
- Adoption of MRLs developed by Codex, supplemented in sequence by those of China, the U.S. and Thailand
- Development of a list of exempted substances; and
- Adoption of Codex's classification of foods.

The HKG has staged a series of public forums introducing the proposed Regulation to the trade. Based on the latest information, the HKG's establishment of the Pesticide List has been made with reference to the MRL standards of Codex, China, the U.S. and Thailand. While the HKG will try to set up a mechanism to keep the Hong Kong Pesticide List current with future Codex updates, it currently does not intend to incorporate any future updates by China, the U.S. and Thailand. However, the HKG has stated that it will consider applications to place additional pesticides on the list (after the establishment of the base list) with all applications being charged a fee on a cost recovery basis.

For more information on Hong Kong's Pesticide Regulation, please see GAIN report "Hong Kong Plans for New Pesticide Regulation in Late 2011" dated March 8, 2011.