



कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद  
निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण  
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products  
Export Development Authority**  
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

File No.: FFV-2011-12-000102(Vol.III)  
Pesticide Residue Saudi Arabia  
Dated: 17.01.2019

**Exporters of Okra, Green Chillies and other vegetables to Saudi Arabia**  
**Detection of residues of pesticides in vegetable consignments from India to the Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia**

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia have reported instances of interception of higher than permissible levels of pesticides residues in Okra consignments in Saudi Arabia. In this context, APEDA has issued several Advisories on our website dated 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 an latest on 18.10.2018 to the exporters advising to get the green chillies and okra consignment test report from APEDA recognized laboratories and export the compliant material. The exporters have not been taking serious cognizance of these advisories.

It may be noted that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have intimated that if this situation continue, they are going to take strong action in the near future. **Considering the sensitivity involved in the matter APEDA has requested NPPO, India to grant the Phytosanitary Certificate i.e. Plant Passport for Okra, Green chillies and other vegetables to Saudi Arabia only on production of Test reports from a laboratory recognized by APEDA to ensure compliance to the import requirements of Saudi Arabia.**

Exporters are advised to strictly adhere to the import requirements of Saudi Arabia and not to make any shipments without getting the test reports prior to export and found to be compliant with conditions of Saudi Arabia.

It is therefore, notified through this advisory that any violation of importing countries requirements would be viewed seriously and the onus of financial losses will solely be on the defaulting exporters.

(U K Vats)

General Manager

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

Place: New Delhi



## Saudi Arabia Pesticide MRLs Market Information Page

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**Date Last Updated:** October 2015

### **Pesticide MRL Regulation Status and Summary:**

Deferral policy: Defers first to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), then to Codex, and lastly to the lower of the U.S. and EU MRLs. A default MRL of 0.01 ppm applies when no GCC, Codex, U.S., or EU MRL is established.

Default MRL policy: Saudi Arabia applies a default MRL of 0.01 ppm as part of its deferral policy described above.

Saudi Arabia does not maintain a national MRL standard. A multi-step deferral policy was established in October 2011 and is summarized below in order of precedence:

- 1) The Gulf Cooperation Council MRL.
- 2) The international Codex Alimentarius Food Standard MRL.
- 3) The lower of the United States and European Union MRLs.
- 4) A default MRL of 0.01 ppm.

Currently, GlobalMRL.com only reflects steps one and two of Saudi Arabia's deferral path (deferring to GCC, then to Codex). It is recommended that users include the US and EU in queries for Saudi Arabia. The database will be adjusted in the future to reflect Saudi Arabia's full deferral policy.

### **Frequency of MRL Updates:**

The current GCC MRL standard was established in 1994. In 2013, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) published a draft legislation, *GSO 382,383/2013: Maximum Limits of Pesticide Residues in Agricultural and Food Products*. This list includes a much broader scope of commodities and active ingredients than the 1994 standard and would apply to countries in the GCC.

### **Government Agencies Responsible for Pesticide MRL Regulation:**

The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) is responsible for developing food standards among GCC member countries. The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) regulates, oversees, and controls imported food and sets mandatory standards for imported products.

## **Government Agencies Responsible for MRL Monitoring and Enforcement:**

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) is responsible for the inspection of imported foodstuffs.

## **Monitoring, Testing, and Enforcement Program:**

All imported foodstuffs are inspected at the port of entry. If a product is rejected for not adhering to Saudi standards, it is requested that the importer re-export or destroy the product.

In 2014, U.S. shipments of grape leaves were rejected by SFDA for allegedly exceeding the relevant MRL of 0.01 mg/kg, subsequently disqualifying several U.S. shipments of grape leaves from entry into Saudi Arabia.

## **Points of Contact:**

Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) (Inspects imported food and feed products)  
Vice President Food Affairs  
Tel: 966-11-203-8222 ext. 202  
Fax: 966-11-275-1788  
Email: [food-dept@sfda.gov.sa](mailto:food-dept@sfda.gov.sa)  
Website: <http://www.sfda.gov.sa>

Director General  
General Directorate of Nutrition Department  
Ministry of Health (registers herbal preparations, health and supplementary foods)  
Tel: 966-11-464-0811  
Fax: 966-11-464-5536  
Website: [www.moh.gov.sa](http://www.moh.gov.sa)

Director General  
Plant and Animal Quarantine Department  
MOA (inspection of live animals, plants, fruit, vegetables and animal feed)  
Tel: 966-11-404-4292  
Fax: 966-11-401-1323

For U.S. industry, the U.S. Agricultural Affairs Office can assist with MRL-related inquiries:

Agricultural Trade Office  
American Embassy  
P.O. Box: 94309, Riyadh – 11693, Saudi Arabia  
Phone: (966-1) 488-3800, ext. 4351  
Fax: (966-1) 482-4364  
Email: [USEmbRiyadhWebSite@state.gov](mailto:USEmbRiyadhWebSite@state.gov)



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(कृषि एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

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Agricultural and Processed Food Products  
Export Development Authority  
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

FFV/2015-16/0000102  
25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

**Lifting on temporary ban imposed on import of green chilies by  
Saudi Arabia**

We wish to inform the exporter that Saudi Arabian Authorities have lifted temporary ban imposed on import of green chili from India. Exporters are hereby advised to strictly follow the Trade Notice No. APEDA/Q/2015 dated 19/08/2015 "Procedure for export of vegetables" hosted in the APEDA website i.e. [www.apeda.gov.in](http://www.apeda.gov.in) under "Quality" icon- "Export Regulation" for export of green chilies to Saudi Arabia. They should take utmost care with respect to quality and adhere to Saudi Arabian Import norms. The procedure for export of vegetables is an attempt to facilitate adhering to the quality requirements. Exporters are advised to take all necessary precautions and care before export.

It is equally important that backward linkages are strengthened by the exporters so that produce quality is maintained under their supervision and control.

R. Ravindra  
Dy. General Manager

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(GULF & HAJ DIVISION)

No. G- 204/11/2013

Dated: June 13, 2013

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a circular issued by the Saudi Food & Drug Authority, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, regarding Mandatory Compliance with the pesticide MRLs in Food. The Saudi Food & Drug Authority has also informed that its website: [www.sfda.gov.sa](http://www.sfda.gov.sa) can be visited for the circulars issued by the Authority.

2. The circular has been received from Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in New Delhi vide Note Verbale enclosed.



(Shakeel Ahmad)

Under Secretary (Gulf)

Tel. 2301-7446

Fax. 2379-4513

**Shri R. K. Boyal,**

Director,

Agricultural & Processed Food Products,

Export Development Authority,

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

NCUI Building 3, Siri Institutional Area August Kranti Marg,

New Delhi- 110016, (Ph. 26513162, Fax. 26519259)

ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA  
NEW DELHI



سفارة المملكة العربية السعودية  
نيودلهي

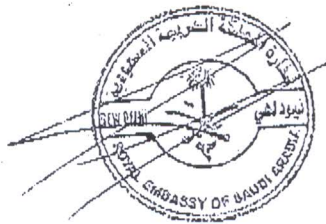
No. 209/11/2/1590  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and has the honour to forward herewith a circular issued by the Saudi Food & Drug Authority, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, regarding Mandatory Compliance with the Pesticide MRLs in Food. The Saudi Food & Drug Authority has also informed that its website: [www.sfda.gov.sa](http://www.sfda.gov.sa) can be visited for the circulars issued by the Authority.

The Royal Embassy will appreciate the esteemed Ministry's assistance in conveying this information to the concerned authorities in the Government of India.

The Royal Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The Ministry of External Affairs,  
Government of India,  
Gulf Division,  
South Block,  
New Delhi.**



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Saudi Food & Drug Authority  
(255)  
Food Sector



المملكة العربية السعودية  
الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء  
( ٢٥٥ )  
قطاع الغذاء

**Guidance 1418/ 14 Jan 2013**  
**Mandatory Compliance with the Pesticide MRLs in Food**

This document is a follow-up to SFDA guidance 3965/30 Oct 2011 "Approved Procedures for dealing with Pesticide Residue Limits in foodstuff imported to KSA". It falls within the framework of SFDA's continuous efforts to control the safety of food products coming through the Saudi ports of entry and to ensure their compliance with the maximum residue limits of pesticides as approved in Saudi Arabia. In addition to the aforementioned objectives, this document is intended to safeguard public health, prevent loss of national capitals, and avoid rejection of food products destined to the Saudi market. Thus, SFDA would like to advise all food importers on the following:

1. It is mandatory to fully comply with the terms and procedures stated in the above SFDA guidance No. 3965/30 Oct 2011 "Approved Procedures for dealing with Pesticide Residue Limits in foodstuff imported to KSA".
2. In order to speed up the clearance process, food importers are recommended to accompany each shipment with test results, from laboratories which are internationally accredited and certified with ISO 17025, confirming its compliance with the limits stated above in Article (1).
3. It is necessary for food importers, when entering into agreements with their respective exporters, to incorporate terms which protect their rights. As far as SFDA is concerned, the food importer, to whom the consignment is addressed, shall be the only party held accountable if any incident of non-compliance with the relevant approved technical regulations and standards are found or if the documents accompanying the consignment proved inconsistent.

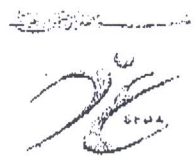
**Your cooperation is highly appreciated**

\*This document is available in English. SFDA offers this translation as a service to a broad international audience. We, however, recognize that the translated version may not be as precise, clear, or complete as the Arabic version. Therefore, the official version of this document is the Arabic version.

٣٢٩٢ الطريق الدائري الشمالي - حي النفل - الرياض ١٣٢١٢ - ١١٨٨ - المملكة العربية السعودية - هاتف: ٢٧٥٩٢٢٢ +٩٦٦ ١ ٢٧٥٩٢٢٢ فاكس: ٢٧٥٩٢٢٢ +٩٦٦ ١ ٢٧٥٩٢٢٢  
129/2 Northern Ring Rd. - An Nafal District - Riyadh 13312-6288 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Tel.: +966 1 2759222 - Fax: +966 1 2757238  
www.sfda.gov.sa

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Saudi Food & Drug Authority

( 255 )  
Food Sector



المملكة العربية السعودية  
الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء

( ٢٥٥ )  
قطاع الغذاء

### تعميم

رقم ١٤١٨/ع وتاريخ ١٤٢٤/٣/٢هـ

بشروية الالتزام بالحدود القصوى المسموح بها من بقايا المبيدات في الأغذية

إلتحافاً لتعمير الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء رقم ٢٩٦٥/ع وتاريخ ١٤٢٢/١٢/٤هـ بتمسوس الإجراءات المعتمدة للتعامل مع بقايا المبيدات في بعض المنتجات الغذائية التي تزيد للملحظة والتي يمكن أن تشكل خطراً على الصحة، وفي إطار ما تقوم به الهيئة من متابعة مستمرة لسلامة المنتجات الغذائية الواردة للمملكة ومدى مطابقتها للحدود القصوى المسموح بها في المملكة من بقايا المبيدات في الأغذية، وحرصاً على صحة وسلامة المستهلك، وتحقيقاً للمصلحة العامة وحفاظاً على رؤوس الأموال الوطنية والتلافياً تعرض تلك المنتجات للرفض وعدم السماح لها بالدخول لأسواق المملكة، فإن الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء تود إبلاغ جميع مستوردي الأغذية بالآتي :-

- ١- ضرورة الالتزام بالإجراءات الواردة بتعمير الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء رقم ٢٩٦٥/ع وتاريخ ١٤٢٢/١٢/٤هـ والملحوظة أعلاه من هذا التعميم للتعامل مع بقايا المبيدات في الأغذية، والتقييد التام بما جاء فيه.
- ٢- رغبة من الهيئة في تسهيل إجراءات الترخيص، يمكن إرفاق نتائج تحليل مخبري (اختياري) صادر من مختبر معتمد لمواصفة الأيزو- ISO 17025 (من جهة اعتماد معترف بها عالمياً) مع كل شحنة توريد بمطابقتها للحدود المذكورة في البند (١) أعلاه من هذا التعميم.
- ٣- التأكيد على مستوردي المواد الغذائية ضرورة تضمين تعاقداتهم للاستيراد بنص يضمن حقوقهم تجاه المصدر في حال ثبوت عدم مطابقتها لمستوردهم من المواد الغذائية للوائح الفنية والمواصفات المعتمدة والتعاسير ذات العلاقة، أو في حالة عدم صحة التقارير أو الشهادات المصاحبة لها، حيث أن المستورد مسئول أمام الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء عن الإرسالية الواردة باسمه.

مقدمين تجاوب الجميع وتعارفهم في سبيل المصلحة العامة،،،،



### Announcement Regarding the Approved Procedures in Dealing with Pesticide Residues\*

Within the framework of keeping imported food under constant control, it has been reported that some products contain pesticide residues which pose risk to consumer health. These residues are yet to be included in the current standard specifications.

In order to serve the public interest, safeguard consumer health, enable the importers and companies to comply with well-defined MRLs and to avoid rejection of foodstuff imported into the Kingdom, the following procedures for dealing with pesticide residues shall apply and shall be followed by businesses, importers and all relevant parties:

1. All Saudi and GCC Standards concerning MRLs shall be met. If a pesticide MRL does not exist, a reference shall be made to the Codex Alimentarius Standards.
2. If a pesticide MRL is not indicated either in the Saudi/GCC standards or the Codex, a reference shall be made to the EU or USA standards, whichever is less.
3. If a pesticide MRL is not incorporated in all of the above standards, the maximum level to be adopted is 0.01 mg/kg.
4. The SFDA Food Control laboratories shall start applying these new procedures to the analysis of food products six months after this directive enters force.
5. The necessary arrangements for publishing these new procedures shall be taken as soon as possible.

Your cooperation for the sake of public interest is highly appreciated.

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