



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E - Safety of the food chain
E3 - Chemicals, contaminants, pesticides

Brussels, 30. 11. 2010
SANCO.E3/DC/md (2010) 968449
Ares(2010)881742

NOTE TO HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

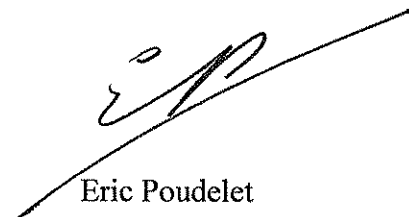
Subject: Presence of morpholine on fresh fruits – clarification of the legal status

The EU has recently experienced problems with the use of non-authorised products on fresh fruits imported to the EU. The regulatory Committee agreed on 25 November 2010 on a short statement clarifying the legal status of the product and also on transitional measures (see attached document).

The transitional measures concern a limited number of tropical fruits from certain West-African countries. This information has already been shared with industry.

I would appreciate, if the attached statement could be brought to the attention of the relevant official services (Agriculture, Trade, Food) in the countries, for which your Delegation is responsible, as in particular the legal status of the substance concerned needs to be clear to all parties involved in exports of fresh fruits to the EU.

For further questions you can contact Mr Dimitrios Chrysafidis (telephone: +32 2 295.09.84), who follows this dossier.



Eric Poudelet

STATEMENT FOR MORPHOLINE

Morpholine is used as a carrier, having also a function as an emulsifier, in waxes, for glazing purposes of fruits. Such use is a food additive use and morpholine is not authorised as food additive in the EU.

Therefore this use of morpholine is not authorised in the EU and may not be used on fruits intended to be placed on the market in the EU.

This unauthorised use has been detected recently and appeared to be widely used on fruits in the countries of origin outside the EU. Risk assessment carried out by Food Standards Agency (UK) has shown evidence that the presence of low levels of morpholine over short periods of time is unlikely to be of concern for public health.

In the interest of a harmonised control approach across the EU, following risk management measures are recommended to the Member States, when they take official control samples of consignments of **pineapple, mango, papaya and avocado** (of which the peels are not expected to be consumed) imported into the EU:

— for consignments of fruits treated with morpholine containing waxes, which left the country of origin before the 15th of December 2010 to allow the placing on the market of consignments in which the level of morpholine is below the limit of quantification of the analytical method in the **edible part of the fruit**.

— for consignments which have left the country of origin after the 14th of December 2010, not to allow the placing on the market of consignments in which the level of morpholine is above the limit of quantification for the **whole fruit** (including the peel)

It goes without saying that consignments of other fruits can only be imported if no morpholine has been used on the fruits.

With this approach, a high level of human health protection is ensured, whilst avoiding serious disruption of trade.