

MEDIA RELEASE

Citrus Australia Welcomes Enhanced Testing of Imported Orange Juice

Citrus Australia has welcomed the advice from Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) that testing for carbendazim in imported orange juice will commence. No oranges or orange juice sold in Australia will be permitted to contain the fungicide carbendazim.

Citrus Australia recently raised concerns after the US Food and Drug Agency detected trace amounts of carbendazim in orange juice imported from Brazil.

FSANZ have conducted a risk assessment based on the recent reports and have concluded that exposure to carbendazim through consuming orange juice is extremely low. In fact a 60kg adult would have to drink more than 145 litres of orange juice in a day before going over the safe level.

Australia imports most of its orange juice concentrate from Brazil where the use of the fungicide is legal. However carbendazim is banned from use in the Australian citrus industry and now all imported citrus products are also required to comply with the same standard.

“This means that carbendazim in orange juice is an unlawful chemical residue under Australian law,” said Judith Damiani, CEO of Citrus Australia. “The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service will start sampling shipments of imported orange juice for carbendazim and will take action on non-compliance. We will monitor the results of that testing closely.

“In the meantime we urge everyone to buy fresh Australian orange juice or Australian Valencia oranges to squeeze at home. Make sure you buy Aussie juice or Aussie Valencia oranges for your breakfast or BBQ on Australia Day!”

More information on carbendazim can be found on the FSANZ website www.foodstandards.gov.au



To find Australian fresh juice in your supermarket chiller aisle, look for packaging labelled Product of Australia and/or the *Aussie Grown, Supported by Australian Citrus Growers* logo – indicating the endorsement of Citrus Australia. The logo cannot be bought and is designed to help consumers make an informed choice when buying Australian juices.

The following Australian juices proudly use the endorsement logo: Berri Australian Grown, Original Juice Black Label Orange Juice, Curlwaa Fresh Orange Juice and Nippy's Orange Juice.

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