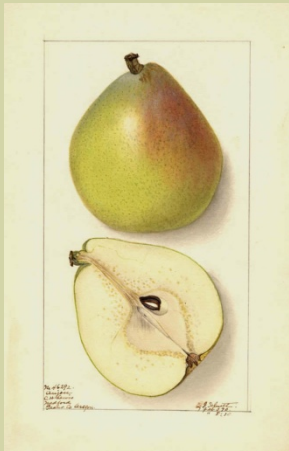




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Emerging Pesticide Residue Regulations in Hong Kong: August 2014 Enactment of its Modified Positive List

Mike Willett
Northwest Horticultural Council
Yakima, Washington USA



Northwest Horticultural Council

Top export markets for Northwest apples, cherries and pears.

Total

Exports: Over 30% of all apples, pears and cherries grown in the PNW are exported to over 60 countries around the world. Total PNW tree fruit farm gate value is about \$2.5 billion (2012).

Apples

Mexico

Canada

Taiwan

Dubai

Indonesia

India

Hong Kong

UK

Malaysia

China

37,000,000
cartons

Cherries

Canada

Hong Kong/China

Taiwan

Japan

United Kingdom

Australia

Korea

6,500,000
cartons

Pears

Mexico

Canada

Russia*

Brazil

Venezuela

Dubai

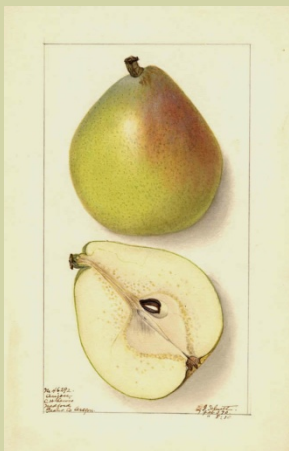
Colombia

N. Europe

India

Saudi Arabia

5,700,000
cartons



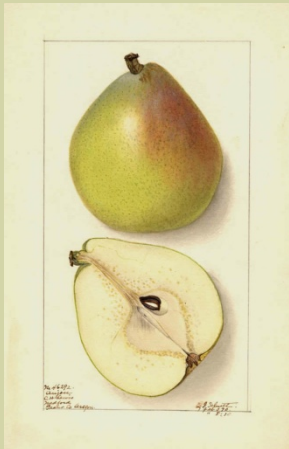
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Preharvest Cherry Mildew Control

Source:
EB0419
WSU Crop
Protection
Guide for
Tree Fruits
in
Washington

1983	1998	2013	
sulfur	fenarimol	azoxystrobin	boscalid
	myclobutanil	tebuconazole	triflumizole
	tebuconazole	trifloxystrobin	difenoconazole
	propiconazole	pyraclostrobin	metconazole
	sulfur	penthioopyrad	quinoxifen
		Kaligreen	myclobutanil
		fluopyram	fenarimol
		propiconazole	sulfur

NHC tracks MRLs on 94 active ingredients for apples, pears and cherries, for which there are 242 tolerances in the U.S.



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Hong Kong, 2012

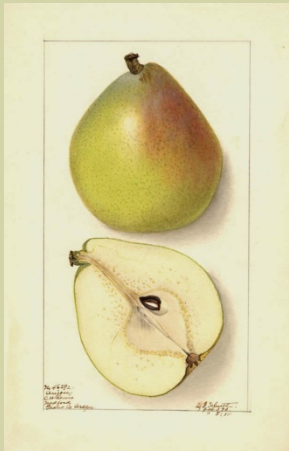




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"The sky overhead was a dark purple-blue and the sea at the end of the winter sky was purple-blue too, but here in the bay was a place like this, a place teeming with people and lanterns and dazzling goods - blue-ceramic double-handled flowerpots, rolls and rolls of scallion-green velvet brushed with gold, cellophane bags of Balinese Shrimp Crisps, amber-coloured durian cakes from the tropics, Buddha-bead bracelets with their big red tassels, light yellow sachets, little crosses made of dark silver, coolie hats - and stretching out beyond these lights and people and market goods, the clear desolation of sea and sky; endless emptiness, endless terror."

Eileen Chang, *Love in a Fallen City* (2006)



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Hong Kong Positive MRL List Policy Development Timeline

November 2007: MRL regulatory framework announced

January 2008: U.S. growers comment on framework

March 2011: Detailed notification regarding new regulations

June 2011: Preliminary MRL list released by Hong Kong

July 2011: U.S. growers respond and identify technology gaps

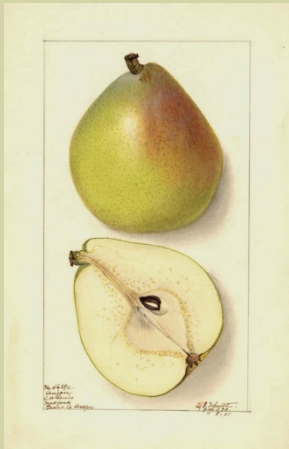
March 2012: Hong Kong issues revised positive list in response

April 2012: U.S. growers respond to identify continuing gaps

June 2012: Pesticide Regulation in Food Regulation is enacted

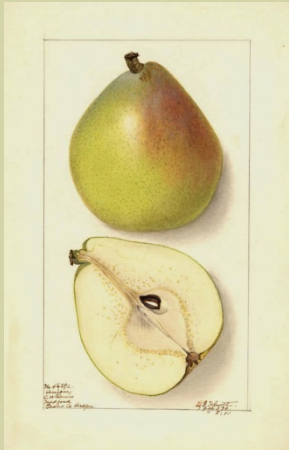
February 2013 to May 2014: Increased communication with Hong Kong

August 1, 2014: New positive list regulation as enacted in 2012 goes into effect and current policy of solely deferring to Codex ends



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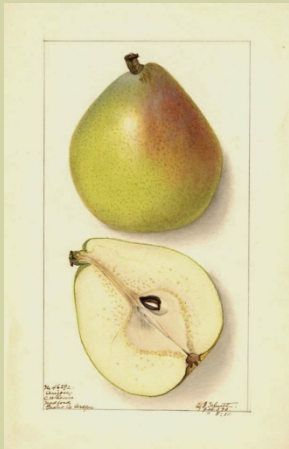
- Modified Positive List is based on MRLs established by Codex, China, Thailand and the U.S.
- Regulators use Codex as a guideline but MRLs can be higher than Codex based on a risk assessment.
- Codex crop classifications will be used to establish MRLs
- Requests to establish or modify MRLs must be accompanied by sufficient supporting information.



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Outcomes of Hong Kong Positive List Development: June 2014

Guide to the Proposal for Addition or Revision of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) and Addition of Exempted Pesticides under the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM)

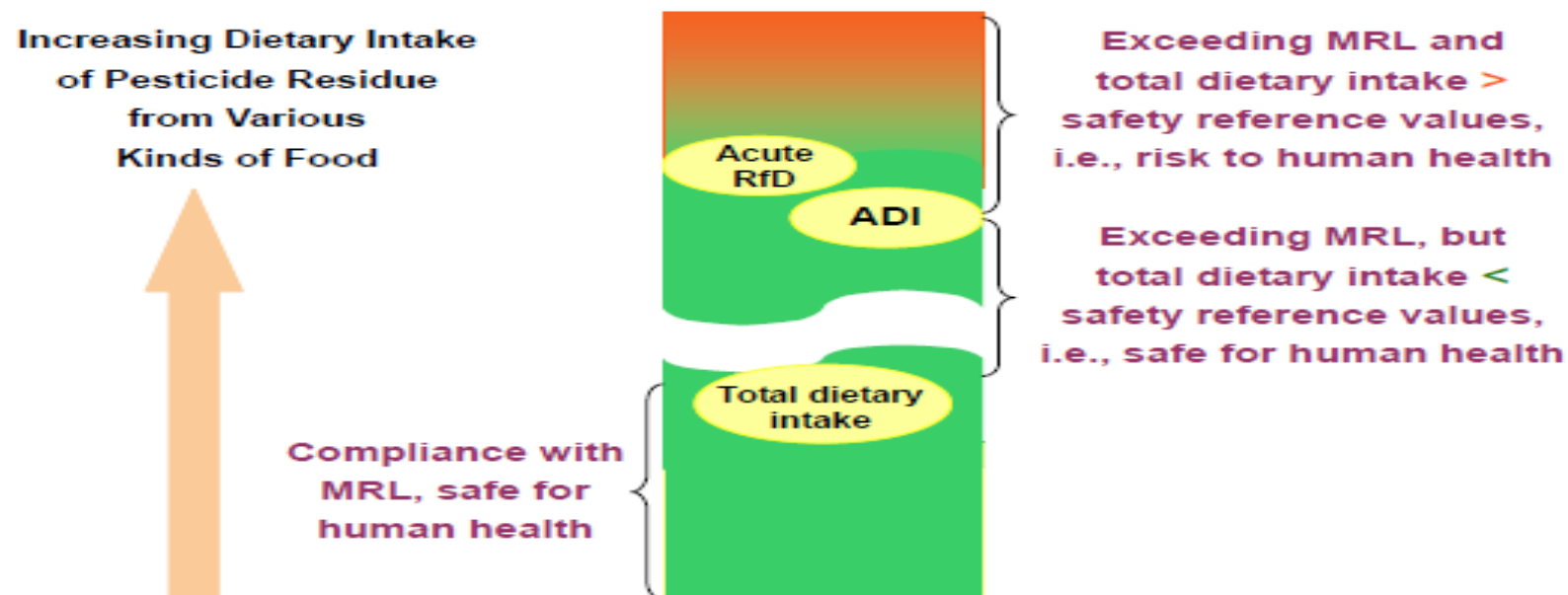


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- The MRL list will be updated “in a timely manner” to reflect international MRL developments. Codex updates for 2012 and 2013 have not yet been included
- Sampling will occur at the import, wholesale and retail levels
- If a residue is detected without an MRL, the commodity may not be rejected rather a risk assessment will be done.
- Hong Kong citizens want safe food but there is no intent to arbitrarily disrupt trade, given the heavy dependence of Hong Kong on food imports

Hong Kong Center for Food Safety's Explanation of an MRL

Diagram 2: Relationship between Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) and Safety Reference Values

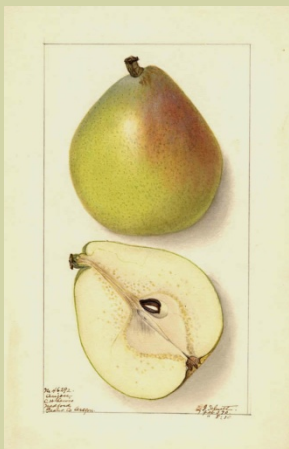


Note

Acute RfD: Acute reference dose } Safety reference values
ADI: Acceptable daily intake

MRL: Maximum residue limit

Total dietary intake: dietary intake of individual pesticide from all food commodities of interest. This is calculated by multiplying the MRL established in a given food commodity by the relevant daily consumption and then adding them up.



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Outcomes of Hong Kong Positive List Development: June 2014

- 56 MRLs have been established for apple, pear and/or cherry/chemical combinations for which no MRL previously existed.
- 10 crop/chemical MRLs were established that are lower than MRLs previously used for apple, pear and/or cherry.
- 11 crop/chemical combinations for which MRLs previously existed that are without MRLs at this moment
- 8 crop/chemical combinations for which MRLs have never been established in Hong Kong.
- Specific priorities for PNW fruit growers can be found on the USA/FAS Grower Priority Database



Northwest Horticultural Council

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What, Me Worry?

