LICENSE REQUIRED FOR POSTHARVEST CITRUS FRUIT TREATMENT MATERIALS IN FLORIDA

Postharvest citrus fruit treatment materials must be licensed under the provisions of the Citrus Code. The Code reads in part:

"601.74 ANALYSIS OF PROCESSING MATERIALS. -

"(1) Every manufacturer before selling or offering for sale, or licensing or offering to license, any soaps, oils, waxes, gases, gas-forming materials, and other similar compositions, and the component parts thereof, for use on or in the processing of citrus fruits, shall furnish the Department of Agriculture with the complete formula followed in the manufacture of such composition, together with a sample of such composition, except gases, and a description of the manner in and conditions under which such composition is intended to be so used.

"(2) The Department of Agriculture shall cause the said formula to be examined and the said sample to be analyzed and if there shall be found in either any ingredient the use of which upon or in the processing of such citrus fruit shall render the same dangerous to health or otherwise unfit for human consumption, or injurious to such fruit or its keeping qualities, then such composition shall not be used on citrus fruit and the manufacturer shall be denied the license hereinafter required."

The current list of firms or individuals licensed are:

ARTIFICIAL COLOR

American Machinery Corporation
FMC Corporation
Fresh Mark Chemical Company
Pennwalt Corporation

Orlando, FL
Lakeland, FL
Maitland, FL
Monrovia, CA

WAX

American Machinery Corporation
FMC Corporation

Orlando, FL
Lakeland, FL
SOAPS AND CLEANERS

American Machinery Corporation
Atlantic Chemicals, Inc.
FMC Corporation
Fresh Mark Chemical Company
Arlie M. Parrish
Pennwalt Corporation
Zep Manufacturing Company

FUNGICIDES

American Machinery Corporation
Dow Chemical Company
E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company
FMC Corporation
Fresh Mark Chemical Company
S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc.
Pennwalt Corporation
Paper-Pak Corporation

ETHYLENE

Catalytic Generators
Union Carbide

FUMIGANT

Dow Chemical Company
Great Lakes Chemical Corp.

SEPARATOR FLUID

American Machinery Corporation
FMC Corporation
Fresh Mark Chemical Company

CITRUS MARKING INK

FMC Corporation

Anyone considering use of a postharvest treatment to citrus that is not sold by the companies listed above, should check with the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Inspection (address below) to determine if that source has been licensed after this list was published.

The ingredients list supplied to this office is held in strict confidence. The ingredients are checked for federal approval for use on citrus. Any material applied to citrus fruit after harvest and any manufacturer, distributor or seller
of such materials should be licensed with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Marshall Dougherty, Chief
John Craig, Chemist
Bureau of Technical Control
Division of Fruit & Vegetable Inspection
Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
P. O. Box 1072
Winter Haven, FL 33880
(813) 294-3511

M. Dougherty, formerly with the Florida Department of Citrus at this Center, is in the position vacated by the death of Dr. G. Westbrook.

Editor

LABELING OF CONTAINERS FOR CITRUS FRUIT TREATED WITH FUNGICIDE(S)

There have been frequent questions regarding the labeling of citrus fruit treated postharvest with fungicides. Following is a statement of the law and its interpretation by the Federal Food & Drug Administration in Washington:

1. (The law). Section 403(1) of the Food, Drug, & Cosmetic Law states that a food shall be deemed to be misbranded if it is a raw agricultural commodity which is the produce of the soil, bearing or containing a pesticide chemical applied after harvest, unless the shipping container of such commodity bears labeling which declares the presence of such chemical in or on such commodity and the common or usual name and the function of such chemical: Provided, however, that no such declaration shall be required while such commodity, having been removed from the shipping container, is being held or displayed for sale at retail out of such container in accordance with the custom of the trade.

2. (The interpretation). When individual bags are packed into master cartons for shipment, only the master carton must bear the declaration required by Section 403(1). If on the other hand, the bags are not packed into other containers, but are shipped individually, each individual bag becomes a "shipping container" which must bear the required declaration.

This means that for bags of citrus which are packed for shipment in cartons, the name(s) and function of the fungicide(s) need appear only on the carton. Loose bags shipped within the state, and all cartons must continue to bear the required declaration.

Marshall Dougherty
Division of Fruit & Vegetable Inspection
Winter Haven, FL
DELAY IN ENFORCEMENT OF FLORIDA PRODUCE LABELING ACT

Although the Produce Labeling Act of 1979 became law on January 1, 1980, it is doubtful that it will be enforced before mid-March and possibly not at all. The Florida Tomato Committee reports a public hearing was held in Tallahassee on January 23 to discuss promulgating rules to enforce the law. After hearing comments from growers, retailers, importers and counsel representing the West Mexico Vegetable Distributors Association, representatives of the Florida Department of Agriculture announced that another meeting would be held in about 30 to 45 days. It is anticipated that the law will not be enforced prior to that time.

The Act permits growers and shippers to label fresh fruits and vegetables produced in Florida as products of Florida. It requires country of origin labeling on fresh fruits and vegetables grown outside the U.S. and sold in Florida.

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Available from Dr. W. Wardowski, AREC, P. O. Box 1088, Lake Alfred, FL 33850

"Packinghouse Newsletter Index, Issues 1 - 107"


Available from Florida Fruit Digest Co., 333 Laura Street, Suite 360, Jacksonville, FL 32202

"The Florida Fruit and Vegetable Directory, 1980 Season" published by Florida Fruit Digest Co. Price: $7.00. Add 50¢ postage domestic or $1.00 postage foreign, and 28¢ sales tax for Florida residents.

Available from Division of Fruit & Vegetable Inspection, P. O. Box 1072, Winter Haven, FL 33880

"1978-79 Season Annual Report."

Available from Dr. R. F. Kasmire, Agricultural Extension Service, Dept. of Vegetable Crops, Mann Laboratory, University of California, Davis, CA 95616


This article features ethylene and its effects on fruits, vegetables and ornamentals with several well written articles by highly respected Extension Specialists.

Editor

This newsletter is published at a cost of $79.79 or 6 cents per copy, to give the latest news to the packinghouse industry.