Date: 6/11/2015
GAIN Report Number: TW15017

Taiwan

Post: Taipei

Taiwan New Import Tolerance Application Form

Report Categories:
Trade Policy Incident Report
Fresh Deciduous Fruit
Fresh Fruit
Grain and Feed
Vegetables

Approved By:
Emily Scott, Deputy Chief
Prepared By:
Rosemary Kao, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:
On June 3, Taiwan FDA publicly announced a new draft pesticide import tolerance (IT) application form with detailed guidelines. TFDA's IT requirements are unchanged since June 2013 but the new form provides more clarity to applicants.

General Information:
In an official letter dated June 3, 2015, Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) publicly announced a new draft pesticide import tolerance (IT) application form with detailed guidelines. The nearly 100 recipients of the letter were various food industry or trader/manufacturer groups, food or pesticide associations, food related institutes, the Taiwan offices of key pesticide registrants or chemical companies, as well as the Taipei Representative offices of Taiwan's major fruit/vegetables trading partners , including the Post, AIT/AGR.

TFDA accepts maximum residue limit (MRL) applications on imported crops from interested parties, including registrants, chemical companies, growers groups, or the Taipei Representative offices of fruit/vegetable supplying countries, such as AIT. Applicants sometimes prefer to apply for an import tolerance instead of registering a chemical in Taiwan for local use. Examples include fruit that Taiwan does not grow, e.g. cherries, or where there is low need in applying the same pesticide on crops grown on Taiwan as in the supplying countries due to different pest/disease treatment situations.

Taiwan's MRL establishment process has been slow and there is a big backlog list of applications. Post has been working with the TFDA to accelerate the process. TFDA has made great efforts in the past months to speed up its MRL establishments. However, some IT applications were not approved as they failed to submit all the TFDA required supporting data. Reportedly, TFDA's IT requirements are unchanged since June 2013 when Taiwan added a new requirement for efficacy documentation. The application change is intended to provide more clarity and avoid straining limited TFDA resources reminding applicants to provide required information.

Taiwan authorities reported there will be a 30 day local comment period, but no WTO notification as actual requirements are unchanged. The new IT application form and the guidelines for application can be retrieved in the appendix.