

Pesticide residues in “mungbean sprouts”, “soya bean sprouts” and “lotus tuber” will be included within the scope of Schedule 1 to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM)

**Centre for Food Safety
8 August 2018**

Background

✿ Starting from 1 November 2018

- ✿ Pesticide residues in “mungbean sprouts”, “soya bean sprouts” and “lotus tuber” will be included within the scope of Schedule 1 to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) (the Regulation)
- ✿ to enhance regulatory control of pesticide residues in food

- ✿ “Guidelines on Food Classification for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM)” (the Guidelines) is revised accordingly. No amendment on the Regulation is needed

Background

Major changes

✿ Originally

- ✿ Risk assessment is conducted for **all** pesticide residues in the three food commodities to determine if the consumption of the food concerned is not dangerous or prejudicial to health

✿ New measure

- ✿ listed in Schedule 1 to the Regulation
 - **65** MRLs/EMRLs* for the food group “Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)” are applicable to “mungbean sprouts” and “soya bean sprouts”
 - **53** MRLs/EMRLs for the food group “Root and tuber vegetables” are applicable to “lotus tuber”

* MRLs: Maximum Residue Limits

EMRLs: Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits³

Background

✿ The Guidelines

- ✿ intended to facilitate the trade in identifying the appropriate pesticide residue limits that are applicable to the food commodities concerned
- ✿ prepared by primarily making reference to the Codex's food classification

Background

- ✿ In 2017, Codex
 - ✿ classified “mungbean sprouts” and “soya bean sprouts” under the food group “Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)”
 - ✿ classified “lotus tuber” under the food group “Root and tuber vegetables”

Background

- ✿ Currently, “mungbean sprouts”, “soya bean sprouts” and “lotus tuber” have not been included in the Guidelines
- ✿ Given that the three food commodities are commonly consumed locally
 - ✦ after taking into account the local situation, Centre for Food Safety (CFS)
 - will classify the three food commodities under the corresponding food groups in the Guidelines
 - reference to Codex’s relevant classification

Background

Expert advices have been sought

- ✿ The Working Group on Standard Setting for Pesticide Residues in Food (WG)

- ✿ agreed and supported the new measure

- ✿ The Expert Committee on Food Safety (EC)

- ✿ endorsed the new measure

Revised Guidelines - major revision (1)

“Guidelines on Food Classification for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation”
(English Version), Page 1

✿ Amendments in Paragraph 1.3

The Guidelines is prepared by primarily making reference to the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CAC/MISC 4) (Codex Classification) published in 1993. The Guidelines also makes reference to Codex’s revisions on classification of fruits in 2012², and classification of mungbean sprouts, soya bean sprouts and lotus tuber in 2017³.

✿ Additional footnote 3

Revised Guidelines - major revision (2)

“Guidelines on Food Classification for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation”
(English Version), Page 33

- ✱ Mungbean sprouts and soya bean sprouts are added to the food group “Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)”

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
VL 4359	Lettuce, Red (see Lettuce, Head)	Red cultivar of <i>Lactuca sativa</i> , var. <i>capitata</i>
VL 0536	Mungbean sprouts	<i>Vigna radiata</i> (L.) R. Wilczek var. <i>radiata</i>
VL 0490	Plantain leaves	<i>Plantago major</i> L.

Revised Guidelines - major revision (2)

“Guidelines on Food Classification for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation”
(English Version), Page 33

- ✱ Mungbean sprouts and soya bean sprouts are added to the food group “Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)”

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
-	Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik.
VL 1265	Soya bean sprouts	<i>Glycine max</i> (L.) Merr.
VL 0502	Spinach	<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> L.

Revised Guidelines - major revision (3)

“Guidelines on Food Classification for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation”
(English Version), Page 41

- ✿ Lotus tuber is added to the food group “Root and tuber vegetables”

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
-	Kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i> (Willd.) Ohwi
VR 3002	Lotus tuber	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Geartn.
VR 0588	Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L.

Revised Guidelines

✿ CFS

- ✿ had uploaded electronic version of the revised Guidelines to CFS website
- ✿ has also provided the revised Guidelines in this Meeting
 - “Summary of Major Revisions to “Guidelines on Food Classification for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation” in 2018” is included

Revised Guidelines

✿ The Guidelines

- ✿ provided for information only
- ✿ does not have the force of law
- ✿ should not be interpreted in any manner which would override the provision of the Regulation

✿ In case of any inconsistency, the statutory provisions will prevail

Follow-up work

- ✿ After the implementation of new measure, CFS
 - ✿ will take samples of the three food commodities at import, wholesale and retail levels for testing through routine Food Surveillance Programme

Follow-up work

- ✿ CFS notifies relevant stakeholders before implementing the new measure
 - ✦ CFS website
 - ✦ CFS Facebook
 - ✦ Technical Meeting
 - ✦ Trade Consultation Forum

End