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 Limits
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
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 2012\(^2\), and classification of mungbean sprouts, soya bean sprouts and lotus tuber in 2017\(^3\).

Additional footnote 3
Mungbean sprouts and soya bean sprouts are added to the food group “Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code no.</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VL 4359</td>
<td>Lettuce, Red (see Lettuce, Head)</td>
<td>Red cultivar of <em>Lactuca sativa</em>, var. <em>capitata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VL 0536</td>
<td>Mungbean sprouts</td>
<td><em>Vigna radiata</em> (L.) R. Wilczek var. <em>radiata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VL 0490</td>
<td>Plantain leaves</td>
<td><em>Plantago major</em> L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mungbean sprouts and soya bean sprouts are added to the food group “Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code no.</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Shepherd’s purse</td>
<td><em>Capsella bursa-pastoris</em> (L.) Medik.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VL 1265</td>
<td>Soya bean sprouts</td>
<td><em>Glycine max</em> (L.) Merr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VL 0502</td>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td><em>Spinacia oleracea</em> L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code no.</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Kudzu</td>
<td><em>Pueraria lobata</em> (Willd.) Ohwi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR 3002</td>
<td>Lotus tuber</td>
<td><em>Nelumbo nucifera</em> Geartn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR 0588</td>
<td>Parsnip</td>
<td><em>Pastinaca sativa</em> L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Reducers 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