

# **Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM)**

## **Draft Guidelines on Food Classification**

**Technical Meeting  
27 June 2013**

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# Preface

# Preface (1)

- ✿ The Codex standards form the backbone of the local set of standards specified in Schedule 1 of the Regulation.
  - ✿ The Codex food classification system is also adopted in parallel.

# Preface (2)

- ✿ This Guidelines is intended to facilitate the trade in identifying the appropriate pesticide residue limits that are relevant to the food commodities concerned.
  - ✦ Only food commodities of local interest/relevance are included.
  - ✦ Traders should refer to the original Codex classification for a complete Codex list of food commodities.
  - ✦ The Guidelines has also incorporated food items of special local interest not found on the Codex list.

# Preface (3)

## ✿ The Guidelines:

- ✿ For information only.
- ✿ Does not have the force of law and should not be interpreted in any manner which would override the provision of the Ordinance.
- ✿ Subject to periodic review by DFEH and may be amended or supplemented as necessary from time to time.

# Guide in Using the Food Classification Tables

# Codex Classification of Food

- ✿ intended primarily to ensure the use of uniform nomenclature; and
- ✿ also to classify foods into groups and/or sub-groups for the purpose of establishing group MRLs for commodities with similar characteristics and residue potential.



# The Guidelines

- ✿ Mainly focused on the classification of primary food commodities of plant origin
  - ✦ fruits
  - ✦ vegetables
  - ✦ grasses
  - ✦ nuts and seeds
  - ✦ herbs and spices

# Example 1: Blood orange

# 1. Look up the food item concerned, its food group/subgroup and its Codex code (if available)

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
FC 0001	Citrus fruits	(includes all commodities in this group)
<b>Subgroup C Oranges, Sweet, Sour</b>		
-	Blood orange (see Orange, Sweet)	Cultivar of <i>Citrus sinensis</i> Osbeck

- ✿ Blood orange belongs to the food group “Citrus fruits” and the subgroup “Oranges, Sweet, Sour”, with no Codex code.

## 2. Check if there is any further information provided for the food item concerned in the classification table

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
FC 0001	Citrus fruits	(includes all commodities in this group)
<b>Subgroup C Oranges, Sweet, Sour</b>		
-	Blood orange (see Orange, Sweet)	Cultivar of <i>Citrus sinensis</i> Osbeck

✿ “See Orange, Sweet” in bracket is found following the common name of blood orange.

✿ i.e., blood orange is also a kind of sweet orange

### 3. Find the appropriate pesticide residue limits for the food item concerned

- ❁ Step 1: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the food item concerned, i.e., blood orange
  - ✚ If available, finished.
  - ✚ If not available, go to Step 1a.
- ❁ Step 1a: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the related food item (if available), i.e., “orange, sweet”
  - ✚ If available, finished.
  - ✚ If not available, go to Step 2.

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檔案(F) 編輯(E) 檢視(V) 說明(H)

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Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)

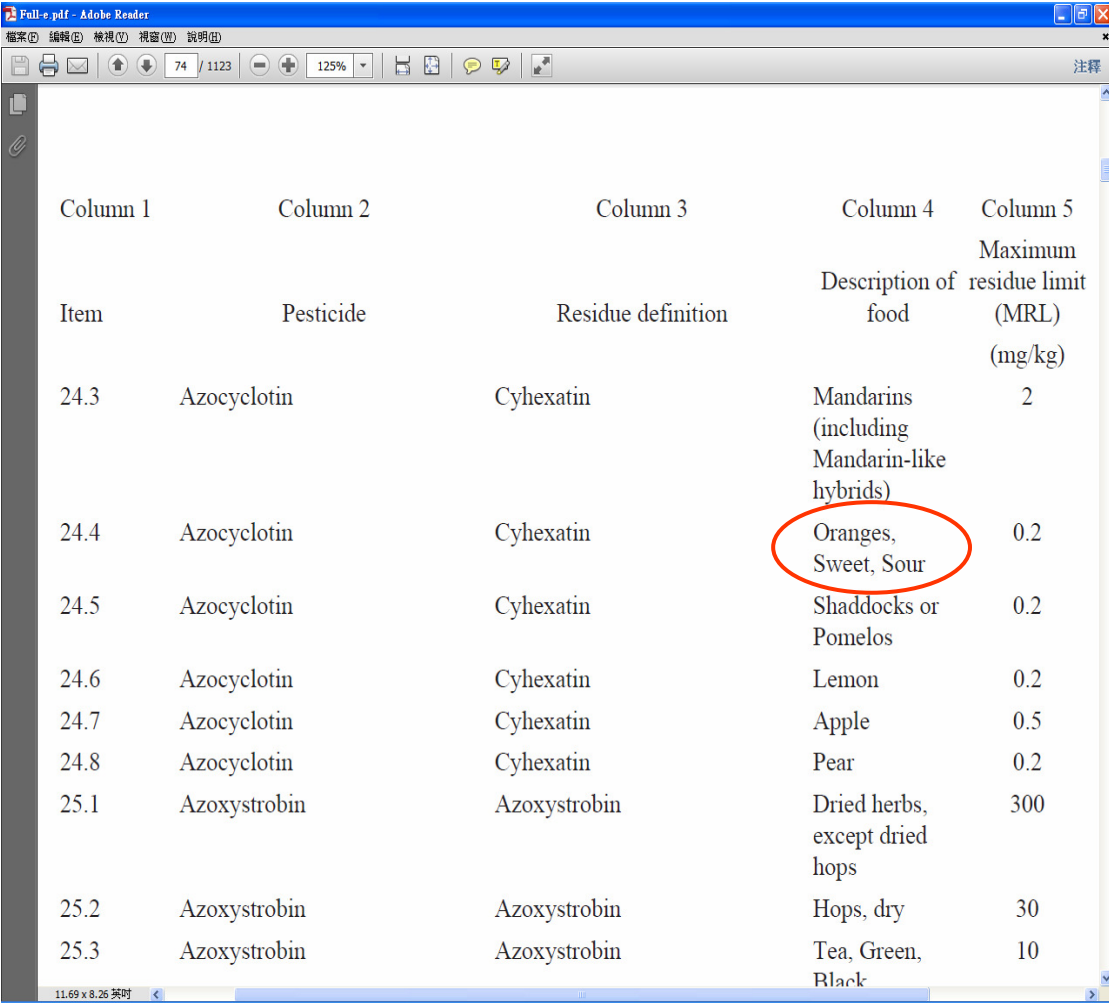
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Item	Pesticide	Residue definition	Description of food	Maximum residue limit (MRL) (mg/kg)
1.1	1-Naphthaleneacetic acid	Sum of 1-naphthaleneacetic acid and its conjugates, expressed as 1-naphthaleneacetic acid	Orange, Sweet	0.1
1.2	1-Naphthaleneacetic acid	Sum of 1-naphthaleneacetic acid and its conjugates, expressed as 1-naphthaleneacetic acid	Tangerine	0.1

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### 3. Find the appropriate pesticide residue limits for the food item concerned

- ✿ Step 2: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the relevant food subgroup (if available), i.e., “Orange, Sweet, Sour”

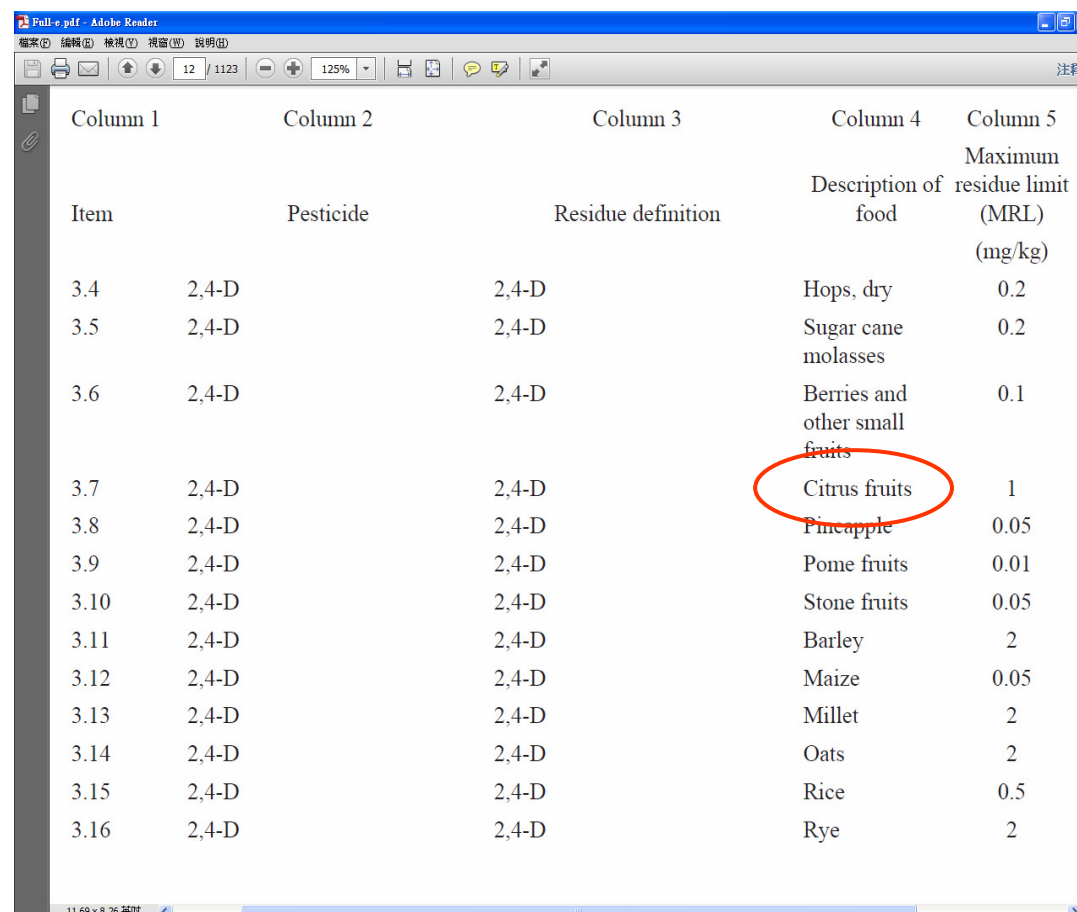
- ✿ If available, finished.
- ✿ If not available, go to Step 3.



Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Item	Pesticide	Residue definition	Description of food	Maximum residue limit (MRL) (mg/kg)
24.3	Azocyclotin	Cyhexatin	Mandarins (including Mandarin-like hybrids)	2
24.4	Azocyclotin	Cyhexatin	Oranges, Sweet, Sour	0.2
24.5	Azocyclotin	Cyhexatin	Shaddocks or Pomelos	0.2
24.6	Azocyclotin	Cyhexatin	Lemon	0.2
24.7	Azocyclotin	Cyhexatin	Apple	0.5
24.8	Azocyclotin	Cyhexatin	Pear	0.2
25.1	Azoxystrobin	Azoxystrobin	Dried herbs, except dried hops	300
25.2	Azoxystrobin	Azoxystrobin	Hops, dry	30
25.3	Azoxystrobin	Azoxystrobin	Tea, Green, Black	10

### 3. Find the appropriate pesticide residue limits for the food item concerned

- ✿ Step 3: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the relevant food group, i.e., “Citrus fruits”
  - ✦ If available, finished.
  - ✦ If not available, it means no MRL/EMRL has been specified for this food item, blood orange; go to Step 4.
- ✿ Step 4: Conduct risk assessment



Column 1 Item	Column 2 Pesticide	Column 3 Residue definition	Column 4 Description of food	Column 5 Maximum residue limit (MRL) (mg/kg)
3.4	2,4-D	2,4-D	Hops, dry	0.2
3.5	2,4-D	2,4-D	Sugar cane molasses	0.2
3.6	2,4-D	2,4-D	Berries and other small fruits	0.1
3.7	2,4-D	2,4-D	Citrus fruits	1
3.8	2,4-D	2,4-D	Pineapple	0.05
3.9	2,4-D	2,4-D	Pome fruits	0.01
3.10	2,4-D	2,4-D	Stone fruits	0.05
3.11	2,4-D	2,4-D	Barley	2
3.12	2,4-D	2,4-D	Maize	0.05
3.13	2,4-D	2,4-D	Millet	2
3.14	2,4-D	2,4-D	Oats	2
3.15	2,4-D	2,4-D	Rice	0.5
3.16	2,4-D	2,4-D	Rye	2

# Risk Assessment

- ✿ As stipulated in Section 4 of the Regulation,
  - ✿ except for exempted pesticides, import and sale of food containing pesticide residues with no MRLs/EMRLs specified in Schedule 1 is only allowed if consumption of the food concerned is not dangerous or prejudicial to health.
  - ✿ In deciding whether the consumption of the food concerned is dangerous or prejudicial to health, DFEH will conduct risk assessment.



4. Look up information on the specific portion of the food item to which the MRL/EMRL applies (i.e., the portion which will be subject to chemical analysis for pesticide residues)

### Group 1: Citrus fruits (group letter code FC)

- a. Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analysed): **Whole commodity.**

- ✿ The MRL/EMRL will be applicable to the whole blood orange, and the whole blood orange (including peel) will be analysed for the pesticide residues concerned.

# Example 2: French bean

# 1. Look up the food item concerned, its food group/subgroup and its Codex code (if available)

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
VP 0060	Legume vegetables	(includes all commodities in this group)
<b>Subgroup A Beans, except broad bean and soya bean (young pods and succulent seeds)</b>		
VP 4415	French bean (young pods and succulent seeds) (see Common bean)	

- ✿ French bean belongs to the food group “Legume vegetables” and the subgroup “Beans, except broad bean and soya bean (young pods and succulent seeds)”, with a Codex code **VP 4415**.

## 2. Check if there is any further information provided for the food item concerned in the classification table

Code no.	Common name	Scientific name
VP 0060	Legume vegetables	(includes all commodities in this group)
Subgroup A Beans, except broad bean and soya bean (young pods and succulent seeds)		
VP 4415	French bean (young pods and succulent seeds) (see Common bean)	

✿ “See Common bean” in bracket is found following the common name of French bean

✿ i.e., French bean is also a kind of common bean.

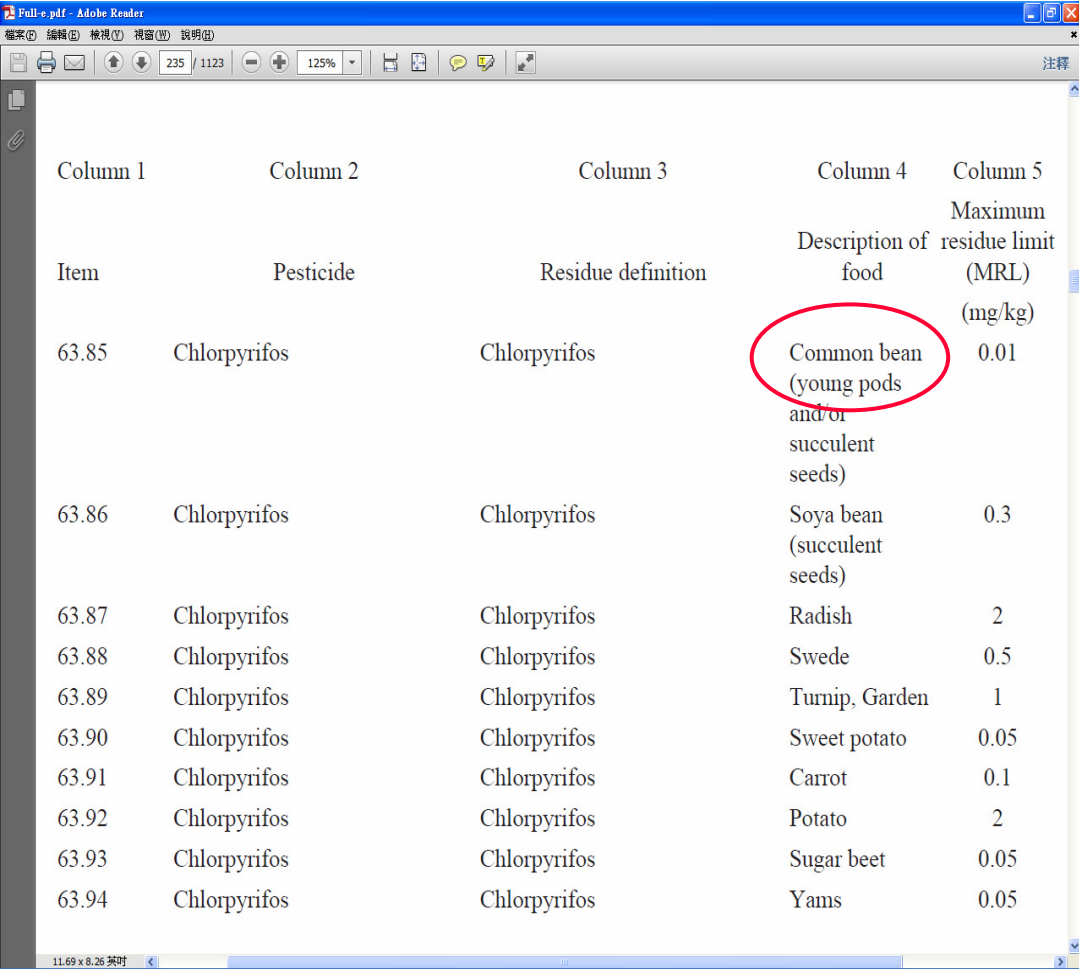
### 3. Find the appropriate pesticide residue limits for the food item concerned

- ❁ Step 1: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the food item concerned, i.e., French bean

- ❁ If available, finished.
- ❁ If not available, go to Step 1a.

- ❁ Step 1a: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the related food item (if available), i.e., “Common bean”

- ❁ If available, finished.
- ❁ If not available, go to Step 2.

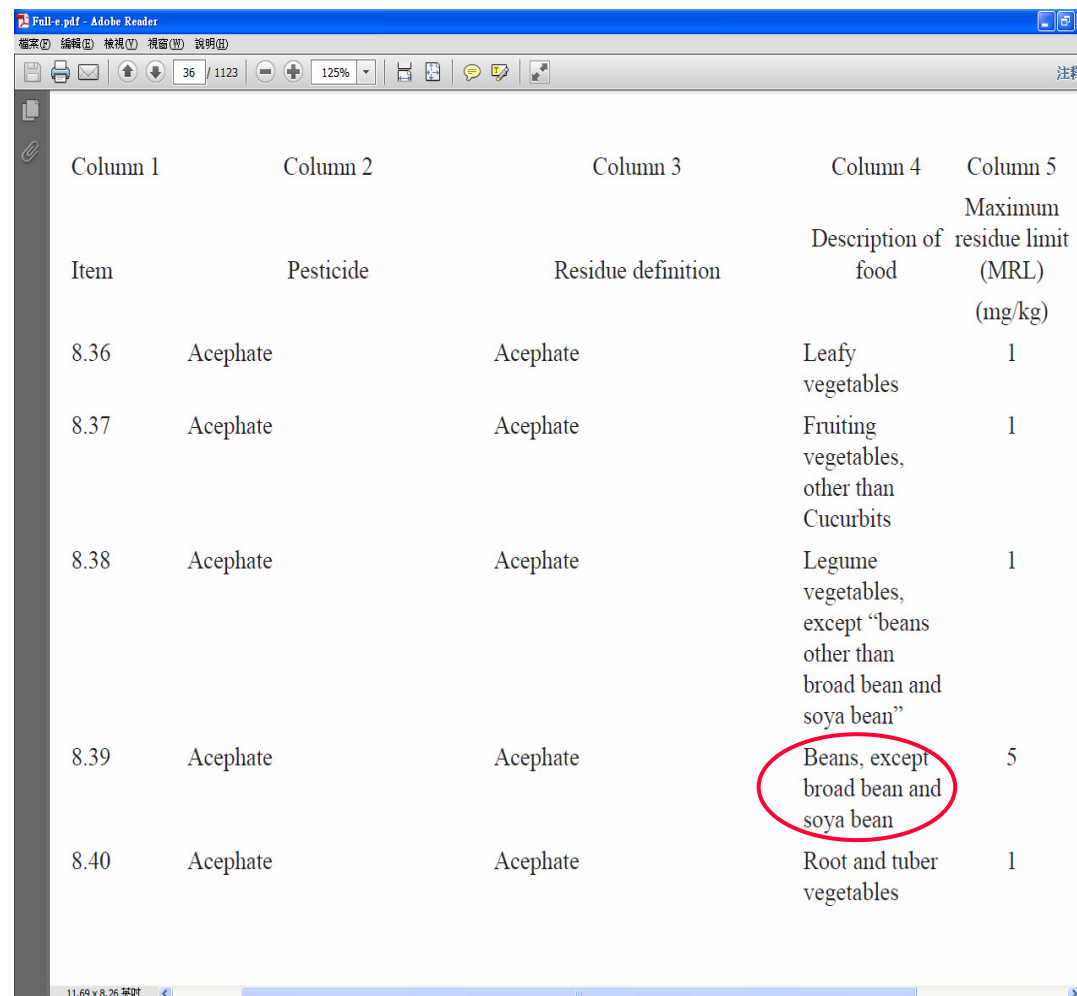


The screenshot shows a PDF document titled 'Full-e.pdf - Adobe Reader'. The document contains a table with the following data:

Column 1 Item	Column 2 Pesticide	Column 3 Residue definition	Column 4 Description of food	Column 5 Maximum residue limit (MRL) (mg/kg)
63.85	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Common bean (young pods and/or succulent seeds)	0.01
63.86	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Soya bean (succulent seeds)	0.3
63.87	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Radish	2
63.88	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Swede	0.5
63.89	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Turnip, Garden	1
63.90	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Sweet potato	0.05
63.91	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Carrot	0.1
63.92	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Potato	2
63.93	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Sugar beet	0.05
63.94	Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Yams	0.05

### 3. Find the appropriate pesticide residue limits for the food item concerned

- ✿ Step 2: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the relevant food subgroup (if available), i.e., “Beans, except broad bean and soya bean (young pods and succulent seeds)”
  - ✿ If available, finished.
  - ✿ If not available, go to Step 3.



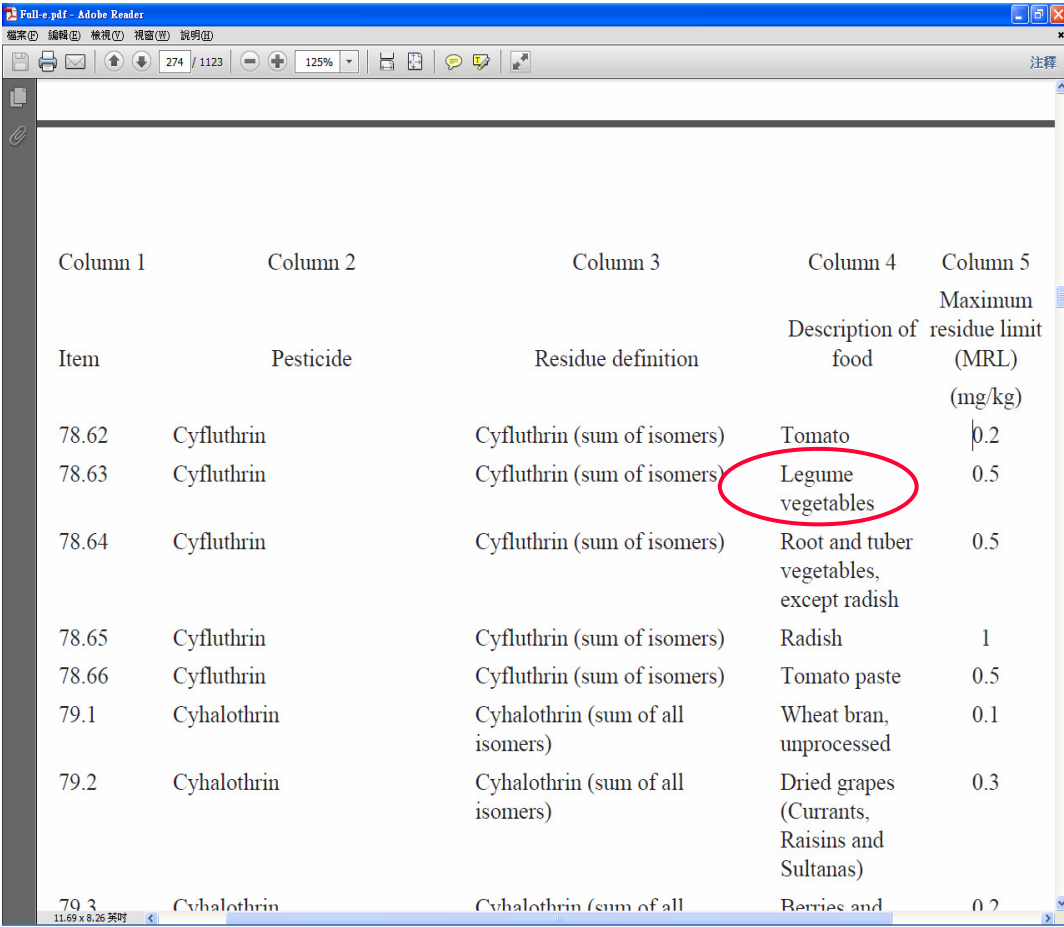
Column 1 Item	Column 2 Pesticide	Column 3 Residue definition	Column 4 Description of food	Column 5 Maximum residue limit (MRL) (mg/kg)
8.36	Acephate	Acephate	Leafy vegetables	1
8.37	Acephate	Acephate	Fruiting vegetables, other than Cucurbits	1
8.38	Acephate	Acephate	Legume vegetables, except “beans other than broad bean and soya bean”	1
8.39	Acephate	Acephate	Beans, except broad bean and soya bean	5
8.40	Acephate	Acephate	Root and tuber vegetables	1

### 3. Find the appropriate pesticide residue limits for the food item concerned

- ✿ Step 3: Search for MRL/EMRL specified for the relevant food group, i.e., “Legume vegetables”

- ✿ If available, finished.
- ✿ If not available, it means no MRL/EMRL has been specified for this food item, blood orange; go to Step 4.

- ✿ Step 4: Conduct risk assessment



Column 1 Item	Column 2 Pesticide	Column 3 Residue definition	Column 4 Description of food	Column 5 Maximum residue limit (MRL) (mg/kg)
78.62	Cyfluthrin	Cyfluthrin (sum of isomers)	Tomato	0.2
78.63	Cyfluthrin	Cyfluthrin (sum of isomers)	Legume vegetables	0.5
78.64	Cyfluthrin	Cyfluthrin (sum of isomers)	Root and tuber vegetables, except radish	0.5
78.65	Cyfluthrin	Cyfluthrin (sum of isomers)	Radish	1
78.66	Cyfluthrin	Cyfluthrin (sum of isomers)	Tomato paste	0.5
79.1	Cyhalothrin	Cyhalothrin (sum of all isomers)	Wheat bran, unprocessed	0.1
79.2	Cyhalothrin	Cyhalothrin (sum of all isomers)	Dried grapes (Currants, Raisins and Sultanas)	0.3
79.3	Cyhalothrin	Cyhalothrin (sum of all isomers)	Berries and	0.2

4. Look up information on the specific portion of the food item to which the MRL/EMRL applies (i.e., the portion which will be subject to chemical analysis for pesticide residues)

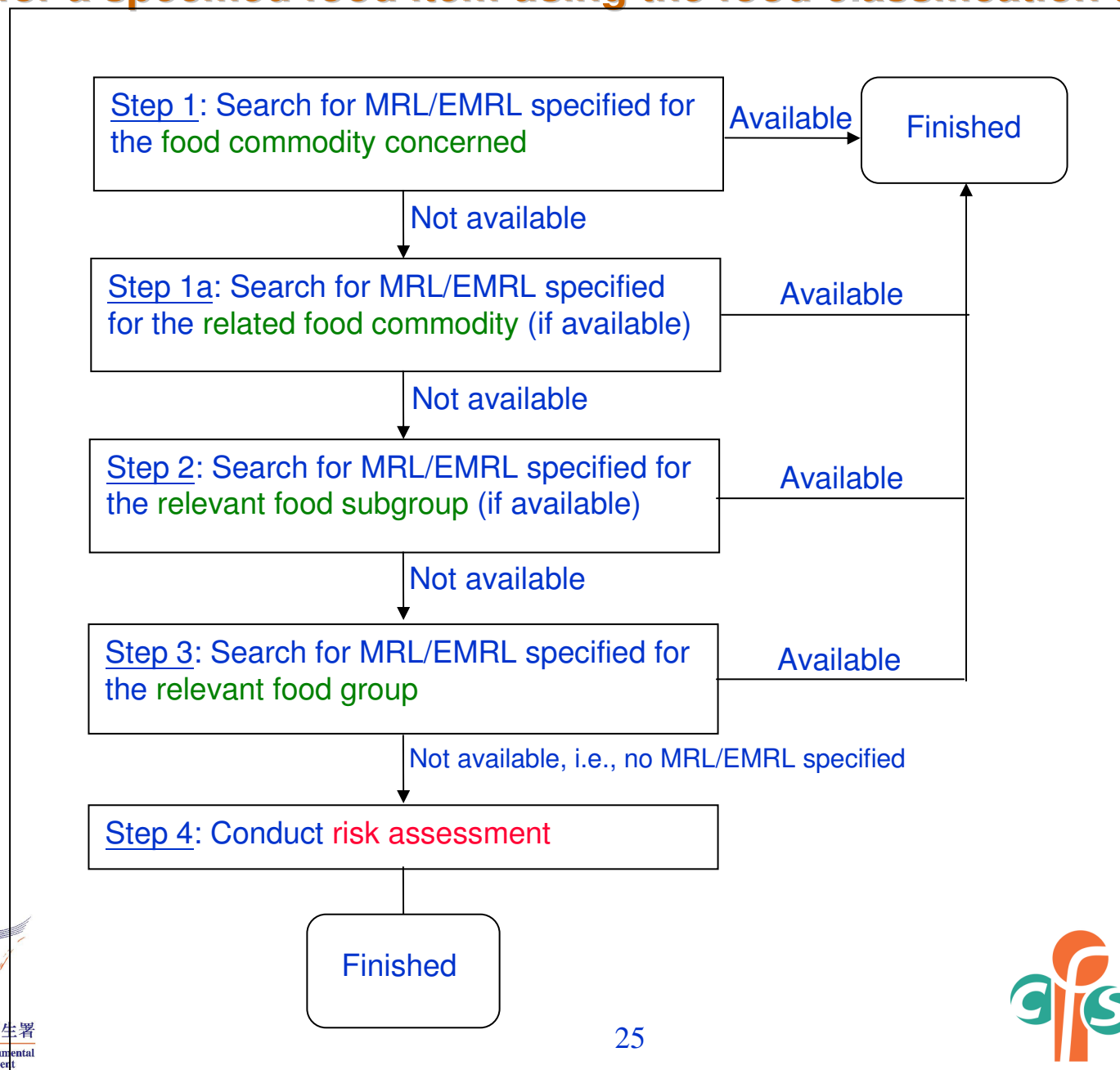
**Group 14 – Legume vegetables (group letter code VP)**

- a. Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analysed): **Whole commodity, unless otherwise specified.**

- ✿ The MRL/EMRL will be applicable to the **whole French bean** which will be analysed for the pesticide residues concerned.



**Figure 1. A summary diagram of finding the appropriate pesticide residue limits for a specified food item using the food classification tables**



# Food Classification Tables

# Special notes to reader on food type “01 FRUITS”

- ✿ Melon-type fruits such as melon, watermelon, cantaloupe, etc., belong to “Fruiting vegetables – Cucurbits”.
- ✿ “Persimmon, Japanese” and “Persimmon, Chinese” are grouped under “pome fruits”; whereas “Persimmon, American” is grouped under “Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits – inedible peel”.
- ✿ Coconut belongs to “Tree nuts” whereas “Coconut, Young” is grouped under “Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits – inedible peel”.
- ✿ Goji berries and ground cherries belong to “Fruiting vegetables other than Cucurbits”.

# Special notes to reader on food type “02 VEGETABLES”

- ✿ “Broccoli, Chinese”/“Kailan” belongs to the food group “Brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables, Head cabbages, Flowerhead brassicas”.
- ✿ Melon-type fruits such as melon, watermelon, cantaloupe, etc., belong to “Fruiting vegetables – Cucurbits”.
- ✿ Goji berries and ground cherries belong to “Fruiting vegetables other than Cucurbits”.

# Special notes to reader on food type “04 NUTS AND SEEDS”

- ✿ Coconut belongs to “Tree nuts” whereas “Coconut, Young” is grouped under “Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits – inedible peel”.

# Way Forward

- ✿ The draft guidelines can be downloaded from the website of CFS:

[http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/whatsnew\\_fstr/whatsnew\\_fstr\\_21\\_Pesticide.html](http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/whatsnew_fstr/whatsnew_fstr_21_Pesticide.html)

- ✿ Please send your comments/suggestion on the draft guidelines are welcome before **31 July 2013**

- ✿ Email: [ra\\_admin@fehd.gov.hk](mailto:ra_admin@fehd.gov.hk)

- ✿ Fax: (852) 2893 3547

# End