

# Food Classification for the Proposed Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation

22 June 2011

# Technical Working Group on Food Classification (1)

- ✿ Two meetings: 20 April & 17 May 2011
- ✿ Terms of reference:
  - ✦ Provide practical inputs on the use of MRL lists in relation to various types of foods;
  - ✦ Contribute to the identification of food that are unique to the Asian and Hong Kong diet and their classification according to the Codex's food classification system; and
  - ✦ Develop relevant guidelines for the trade if necessary.

# Technical Working Group on Food Classification (2)

## ✿ Items discussed:

- ✿ Codex's food classification as applied in the Proposed Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Residues in Food in Hong Kong
  - Highlights of unusual cases of food classification
  - Identification of local foods that are not listed under the Codex's classification
- ✿ Draft guidelines on food classification

# Codex's food classification as applied in the Proposed Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Residues in Food in Hong Kong

# Fruits - Highlights

- ✿ Kumquat belongs to “Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits – edible peel”
- ✿ Melon-type fruits such as melon, watermelon, cantaloupe, etc., belong to Vegetables
  - ✦ “Fruiting vegetables – Cucurbits”
- ✿ Grouping of persimmons depend on its cultivars – edible/inedible peel
  - ✦ “Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits – edible peel”
  - ✦ “Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits – inedible peel”
- ✿ Coconut
  - ✦ Grouped under “Tree nuts”
- ✿ Ground cherries 燈籠果
  - ✦ Grouped under “Fruiting vegetables other than Cucurbits”

# Vegetables – Highlights (1)

- ✿ Melon-type fruits such as melon, watermelon, cantaloupe, etc., belong to Vegetables
  - ✿ “Fruiting vegetables – Cucurbits”
- ✿ Ground cherries 燈籠果
  - ✿ Grouped under “Fruiting vegetables other than Cucurbits”

# Vegetables – Highlights (2)

- ✿ “Fresh” beans/peas
  - ✦ Legumes
- ✿ “Dried” beans/peas
  - ✦ Pulses
- ✿ Yard-long bean
  - ✦ Belongs to subgroup “peas”
- ✿ Chives
  - ✦ Normally consumed as vegetables in Hong Kong
  - ✦ Considered as “Bulb vegetables (VA)”, rather than “Herbs (HH)”

# Vegetables – Highlights (3)

## ✿ Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai)

- ✿ Tientsin cabbage 津菜 ; Wong choi cabbage 王(旺)菜 ; 黃芽白 ; 紹菜 ; Baby Tientsin cabbage 娃娃菜

## ✿ Pak-choi

- ✿ 江門白 ; 鶴藪白 ; 馬尾白 ; 白菜仔 ; 江門仔 ; 馬尾仔 ; 黃葉白菜 ; 黑葉白葉



# Vegetables – Highlights (4)

- ✿ **Chinese Kale** 芥蘭/芥藍 (*Brassica oleracea* L., var. *alboglabra* (L.H. Bailey) Musil)
  - ✦ Equivalent to “Broccoli, Chinese” (VB 0401)
  - ✦ Grouped under group “**Brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables, Head cabbages, Flowerhead brassicas** (VB 0040); and
    - subgroup “Flowerhead brassicas (VB 0042)”

# Food Items of Local Interest

- ✿ Aloe
- ✿ American ginseng (花旗參)
- ✿ Dried dates (紅棗乾)
- ✿ Dried longan (龍眼乾)
- ✿ Edible flowers
  - ✿ Chrysanthemum (菊花)
  - ✿ Honeysuckle (金銀花)
  - ✿ Plumeria rubra Flower (雞蛋花)
  - ✿ Rose
- ✿ Flos Sophorae (槐米)
- ✿ Gingko nuts (白果)
- ✿ Hawthorne (山楂)
- ✿ Honey
- ✿ Luo han guo (羅漢果)
- ✿ Lotus leaf (荷葉)
- ✿ Mulberry leaf (桑葉)
- ✿ Rhizoma Imperatae (白茅根)
- ✿ Seaweed
- ✿ Sprouts (芽菜)
- ✿ Other traditional Chinese herbs

# Regulated under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549)

✿ Dried or processed form. For example,

✿ 夏枯草

✿ 雞骨草

✿ 燈心草

✿ 川貝母

✿ 平貝母

# Dried, Dehydrated, Concentrated, Processed or Compounded Food

- ✿ The MRLs/EMRLs shall apply to any food in a dried, dehydrated or concentrated form with adjustment determined with respect to the mass of the food after dilution or reconstitution, where appropriate;
- ✿ Apart from food in a dried, dehydrated or concentrated form, the MRLs/EMRLs shall apply equally to primary food commodities and processed food;
- ✿ Any compounded food may contain any pesticide residue if the proportion of the pesticide residue present in the compounded food does not exceed, in relation to the quantity of the relevant food used, the level permitted by the MRLs/EMRLs.

# Draft guidelines on food classification

# Content

- ✿ Based on Codex's classification
  - ⊕ Food classification of each food group
    - Table format
    - Codex code
    - Common name and scientific name
  - ⊕ Special notes to readers
  - ⊕ Food of local interest would be incorporated as far as possible

# Food Classification

Food group	Subgroup	Commodity		
		Codex Code	Common name	Scientific name
1	A		A1	
			A2	
			A3	
	B		B1	
			B2	
	/		X	
			Y	
			Z	

# Special notes to readers on certain food types

- ✿ To inform readers unusual cases of food classification, if any



# Example – Citrus Fruits

# Comments and Suggestions

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# Thank you