

Announcement Regarding the Approved Procedures in Dealing with Pesticide Residues*

Within the framework of keeping imported food under constant control, it has been reported that some products contain pesticide residues which pose risk to consumer health. These residues are yet to be included in the current standard specifications.

In order to serve the public interest, safeguard consumer health, enable the importers and companies to comply with well-defined MRLs and to avoid rejection of foodstuff imported into the Kingdom, the following procedures for dealing with pesticide residues shall apply and shall be followed by businesses, importers and all relevant parties:

1. All Saudi and GCC Standards concerning MRLs shall be met. If a pesticide MRL does not exist, a reference shall be made to the Codex Alimentarius Standards.
2. If a pesticide MRL is not indicated either in the Saudi/GCC standards or the Codex, a reference shall be made to the EU or USA standards, whichever is less.
3. If a pesticide MRL is not incorporated in all of the above standards, the maximum level to be adopted is 0.01 mg/kg.
4. The SFDA Food Control laboratories shall start applying these new procedures to the analysis of food products six months after this directive enters force.
5. The necessary arrangements for publishing these new procedures shall be taken as soon as possible.

Your cooperation for the sake of public interest is highly appreciated.

* This document is available in English. SFDA offers this translation as a service to a broad international audience. We, however, recognize that the translated version may not be as precise, clear, or complete as the Arabic version. Therefore, the official version of this document is the Arabic version.