


NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL



October 21, 2023

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: +(61 2) 6272 3933
Email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

Re: Proposal M1021 - Amendments to Schedules 20 and 22

The Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) is pleased to respond to your request for comments on the M1021 proposal to amend Schedules 20 and 22.

The NHC represents the growers, packers, and shippers of apples, pears, and cherries produced in the U.S. states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Together, our growers produce 70 percent of the apples (supplying 80 percent of the U.S. fresh market), 84 percent of the fresh pears, and 73 percent of the fresh sweet cherries grown in the United States.

Australia represents an important market for the cherry producers in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. In 2022, the region's growers shipped 42,092, twenty-pound boxes of cherries to Australia, with a value of \$2,778,105.

The NHC appreciates FSANZ establishing new tolerances for Flutianil (0.4 mg/kg) in the "cherries (subgroup)". Flutianil (Gatten®) is a fungicide used for the management of cherry powdery mildew. It is used by Pacific Northwest growers during late spring and summer, and during shuck fall (petals drop following fruit set).

The change in the tolerance for Fenbuconazole in the "cherries (subgroup)" from 0.02 mg/kg to 1 mg/kg (same as U.S. tolerance) and increasing of the tolerance for Pydiflumetofen from 0.05 mg/kg to 2 mg/kg (same as U.S. tolerance) is also welcome news as it harmonizes the tolerances with those established by the U.S. EPA. Harmonization between the United States and Australia benefit growers in both countries and will help ensure MRL compliance and help maintain this important trading partnership between our two countries.

Sincerely,

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

