



16 February 2012

All Licensed Importers of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Dear Sir/Madam,

CHANGE OF INSPECTION PROGRAMME FOR VEGETABLES FROM MALAYSIA

AVA conducted a review of the inspection results on vegetables from Malaysia. The following changes will take effect from 1 March 2012.

1. Xiao Baicai

This vegetable has shown good pesticide residue performance. It will be lifted from the Enhanced Enforcement Programme (EEP) to the Monitoring Surveillance Programme (MSP), whereby the consignments will be released for sale or distribution immediately after the inspection. Please note that it will revert to hold-and-test inspection if it shows unsatisfactory inspection results under MSP.

2. Matrimony vine, spinach, kale and romaine lettuce

The four vegetables showed inconsistent and unsatisfactory pesticide residue performances. As such, they will be elevated to Enforcement Surveillance Programme (ESP) for monitoring, whereby the consignment will be detained after inspections pending laboratory results. The consignment will be destroyed if it failed the laboratory tests. Please note that if there is no improvement to the performance of matrimony vine, spinach, kale and romaine lettuce from Malaysia under the ESP, AVA may escalate it to a more stringent inspection programme, the EEP. Under the EEP, in addition to the destruction of vegetable consignment that failed to meet the pesticide residue requirements, a composition fine will be imposed on the importer.

You are advised to monitor your imports and obtain your supplies from reliable sources.

Yours sincerely

Ms How Siew Tang
Deputy Director, Inspection Division, Quarantine & Inspection Department
for Director-General
Agri-Food & Veterinary Services