

## **(Draft) Intensive Monitoring for Importation of Fruits and Vegetables (according to Hold, Test and Release concept)**

Import and Export Inspection Division  
Food and Drug Administration, Thailand  
*(as of 30 August 2024)*

### **Definition**

“production” means the actions related to sorting or packing of fresh fruits or vegetables that are supplied from outsourcing or suppliers; or sorting or packing of fresh fruits or vegetables in situ with that any type of premise designed for sorting or packing are established.

“sorting and packing” means the operations involving post-harvest management of fresh fruits or vegetables that cover sorting and packing in any type of container for commercial purpose, with or without the actions of cleaning, cutting or trimming, coating or any process whether with the purpose of protecting quality of the fresh fruits and vegetables or not.

### **Procedures**

Intensive Monitoring for Importation of Fruits and Vegetables (according to hold, test and release concept) will be conducted as follows: Upon the importation of fruits and vegetables at the FDA Inspection offices, the pesticide residue test report or Certificate of Analysis (CoA) issued by a government agency or a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 standards within the scope of pesticide residues test will be reviewed. If the report indicates compliance with legal residue standards, the goods will be released for sale. In the absence of a test report or CoA or it is not applicable, the following risk-based measures will be applied to the imported fruits and vegetables (as shown in page 4):

1. Hold, test and release (HTR)
2. Active Monitoring (AM)
3. Surveillance

#### **1. Hold, test and release (HTR)**

It will be applied to fruits and vegetables listed under the HTR category. Samples will be taken for pesticide residue analysis in a laboratory capable of providing results within one day (1DAAN/1LAB/1DAY). The goods will not be allowed for market distribution until the analysis confirms compliance with legal standards. If the analysis fails to meet the standards, legal action will be taken against the importer for importing substandard food or impure food, and the goods will be either returned to the exporting country or destroyed. The incident will also be reported to the regulatory authorities of the exporting country.

#### **Inclusion criteria**

(1) fruits and vegetables from producers that have a history of non-compliance in the past one year

(Explanation: For operations in the fiscal year 2025, pairs of vegetables and production sources that failed to meet standards in the fiscal year 2024 and 2025 will be used) or

(2) fruits and vegetables from the produces that are

(2.1) Fruits/vegetables: top 5 non-compliance fruits and top 5 non-compliance vegetables in the past 3 years, which more than 20% of samples are non-compliance

(2.2) Producers: that have a history of non-compliance of top 5 of fruits and top 5 of vegetables in the past 3 years and have a history of import in the past one year

### **Exclusion criteria**

(1) Fruits and vegetables from HTR inclusion criteria (1) or HTR (1). When analysis results of imported products conform to the standard for three consecutive lots of products, the products will be downgraded from HTR group to the surveillance group.

(2) Fruits and vegetables from HTR inclusion criteria (2) or HTR (2). FDA will update the list every fiscal year or as indicated by FDA.

## **2. Active Monitoring (AM):**

Upon importation, samples will be taken for preliminary pesticide residue testing (or test kit). The goods will not be allowed for sale until the test results indicate no or safe levels of residues. If unsafe levels are detected, samples will be sent for laboratory analysis with results available within one day. If the analysis confirms compliance with standards, the goods will be allowed for sale. If the analysis fails to meet standards, legal action will be taken against the importer, and the goods will be either returned to the exporting country or destroyed. The incident will also be reported to the regulatory authorities of the exporting country.

### **Inclusion criteria**

(1) New fruits and vegetables from existing producers which no samples were taken in the past three years

(2) All fruits and vegetables from new producers which no samples were taken in the past three years

(3) All fruits and vegetables from non-compliance producers in the past 3 years, excluding HTR group

### **Exclusion criteria**

(1) When the fruits and vegetables from AM inclusion criteria (1) and (2) are sampling for laboratory test for pesticide residues

- if the result is pass, the fruit (or vegetable) with producer will belong to the surveillance group

- if the result is not pass, the fruit (or vegetable) with producer will belong to the HTR (1) group

(2) Fruits and vegetables from AM inclusion criteria (2) or AM (2). FDA will update the list every fiscal year or as indicated by FDA.

### **3. Surveillance:**

This applies to other imported fruits and vegetables not included in the Hold Test Release and Active Monitoring groups. Samples will be randomly taken for laboratory pesticide residue analysis, and the goods will be released for market distribution without waiting for the test results. If the analysis fails to meet standards, the goods will be recalled, legal action will be taken against the importer for importing substandard food or impure food, and the goods will be either returned to the exporting country or destroyed. The incident will also be reported to the regulatory authorities of the exporting country. Finally, the non-compliance fruit with producer will be moved to HTR (1) group.

Once imported fruits and vegetables are available in the market, a post-market surveillance system will be in place to monitor and ensure the safety of the fruits and vegetables.

Additionally, the Food and Drug Inspection Division will implement measures with foreign countries, such as collaborating with trading partners or countries regarding the standards of imported goods in Thailand, registering production sources eligible for import into Thailand, and registering laboratories for pre-export analysis of goods to Thailand. Domestic measures include registering customs brokers to facilitate targeted and comprehensive communication and coordination of relevant procedures and regulations.

Draft for Public Hearing only

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