

UAE bans fruit & veg imports over residue limits from five countries

Fruits and vegetables exceeding maximum residue limits (MRL) of pesticides will be banned from importation into the UAE by May 15 to protect human health, officials said on Monday.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) issued an advisory notice, noting that it has “banned imports of certain vegetables and fruits from selected countries with effect from May 15, 2017, as those products have been found to contain pesticide residues in excess of permissible limits”.

“The countries that will be impacted by the ban include Egypt, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen,” the ministry announced on Monday.

Unacceptable levels of pesticides in food imports were last reported in the UAE from India in May 2016 prompting similar concerns of safety,

Some of the foods to be banned include “all varieties of pepper from Egypt, pepper, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, squash, beans and eggplant from Jordan, apples from Lebanon, melons, carrots and watercress from Oman and all types of fruit from Yemen are on the list of banned produce,” the ministry said.

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