



Re-evaluation Note

REV2000-01

Update on the Re-evaluation of Chlorpyrifos in Canada

The purpose of this document is to notify registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public that many indoor and outdoor uses of the organophosphate pesticide chlorpyrifos will be voluntarily cancelled by its manufacturers in the United States. The basic manufacturers of chlorpyrifos for Canada, Dow AgroSciences, Cheminova and Makteshim, all of whom are involved in the U.S. voluntary cancellation, have not yet agreed to a similar voluntary action in Canada.

Chlorpyrifos is one of the organophosphate pesticides under re-evaluation in Canada, as announced by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in June 1999 in the Re-evaluation Note REV99-01, *Re-evaluation of Organophosphate Pesticides*. On the basis of the progress made to date by the PMRA on its chlorpyrifos re-evaluation, it is anticipated that the final outcome of this re-evaluation will see action being taken in Canada that is similar to the voluntary move by U.S. manufacturers to cancel uses. Canada's re-evaluation of chlorpyrifos will be completed to ensure that any required actions can be taken at the same time as in the United States.

The U.S. manufacturers will be submitting to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests for voluntary cancellation of a range of products including those used residentially (indoor, outdoor and lawns) and in school yards and other areas where children might be exposed to this pesticide. In addition, there will be some changes to agricultural uses for chlorpyrifos. Withdrawal from the U.S. marketplace of these uses will take place over the next several years.

Although the U.S. assessments have determined that the compound poses no imminent threat to public health, review of new animal data by the EPA suggests that fetuses may have an increased sensitivity to neurotoxic effects of chlorpyrifos. Given the new approaches to risk management now adopted by the PMRA and the EPA, which place specific emphasis on risk to children, an additional 10-fold safety factor is being applied to the existing 100-fold safety factor. This means that a 1000-fold safety factor will now be applied to chlorpyrifos, i.e., a person should not be exposed to any more than one thousandth of the level at which no effect occurs in experimental animals. The PMRA will adopt this conservative safety approach and limit the uses of chlorpyrifos accordingly.

Complete details of the changes in acceptable uses for chlorpyrifos and a timetable for their implementation will be provided in a future PMRA publication.

(publié aussi en français)

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