



Re-evaluation Note

REV2000-03

Discontinuation of the Organophosphate Insecticide Fonofos

Fonofos was included as one of the 27 pesticide active ingredients to be re-evaluated by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), as announced on June 29, 1999 in the Agency's publication REV99-01 *Re-evaluation of Organophosphate Pesticides*.

The purpose of this Note is to inform the registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public that in response to the Re-evaluation Announcement, the registrant has requested the discontinuation of the technical grade active ingredient fonofos and the two end-use products containing this active ingredient.

Products containing fonofos have been used as soil-incorporated insecticides for the following pest-crop combinations:

northern corn rootworm, western corn rootworm, seed corn maggot and wireworm in field corn and sweet corn, root maggot in sugarbeets, wireworm and tuber flea beetle in potatoes, and wireworm in tobacco.

(publié aussi en français)

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Pest Management Regulatory Agency. For further information, please contact:**

**Publications Coordinator
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2250 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6606D1
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9**

**Internet: pmra_publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or (613) 736-3799
Facsimile: (613) 736-3798**



1.0 Re-evaluation of Organophosphate Pesticides

Use of organophosphate (OP) pesticide products, which are mainly insecticides, include a broad range of use-site categories, such as forests and woodlands, greenhouse food and nonfood crops, livestock, seed treatments, oilseed and fibre crops, stored food and feed, terrestrial feed and food crops, structural uses, outdoor ornamentals and indoor plants, plant scapes and turf.

The re-evaluation of OP pesticides was announced on June 29, 1999 (REV99-01). Under the re-evaluation program, the PMRA uses a modern scientific approach to re-examine older active ingredients and their end-use products to ensure the ongoing protection of human health and the environment.

2.0 Discontinued Uses of Fonofos

Fonofos (*O*-ethyl *S*-phenyl ethylphosphorodithioate) has been registered for soil incorporation for the following pest–crop combinations:

northern corn rootworm, western corn rootworm, seed corn maggot and wireworm in field corn and sweet corn, root maggot in sugarbeets, wireworm and tuber flea beetle in potatoes, and wireworm in tobacco.

All of the above uses are being discontinued. No Domestic Class products containing fonofos are registered in Canada.

There are no specific maximum residue limits (MRLs) for fonofos in Canada. Fonofos residues in food are covered by the general Regulation B.15.002(1) of the Food and Drug Regulations, i.e., subject to the #0.1 ppm level.

3.0 Alternatives for Fonofos

The alternative products for the discontinued uses of fonofos include other organophosphates, carbamates, synthetic pyrethroids, diphenylethanes, fumigants and endosulfan.

4.0 Extent of Usage

The *Survey of Organophosphate Uses in Canada*, conducted in 1998, indicated limited use of fonofos on the crop–pest combinations for which the product has been registered. Some of the highlights of the reported use of fonofos in Canada are as follows:

- seven responses were received from the provincial extension personnel from across Canada;

- fonofos was cited as having limited use for control of sweetcorn and fieldcorn rootworm in Ontario, suppression of fieldcorn and sweet corn wireworm in British Columbia, and control of wireworm in potatoes across Canada; and
- the only significant, although minor, use of fonofos was for control of wireworm in potatoes in Ontario and New Brunswick where 2 and 5% of the crop, respectively, were treated in an average year and fonofos was the product of choice by growers. The use of fonofos to control wireworm in potatoes was also significant in B.C.

5.0 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Status of Fonofos

Voluntary cancellation of this product was announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Federal Register Notice dated November 1998. Tolerances associated with fonofos were revoked on October 19, 1999. EPA is delaying the effective date of revocation to December 31, 2002 for 28 tolerances of fonofos, including those for field corn, sweet corn, sugarbeet tops and potatoes.

6.0 PMRA's Regulatory Position

In response to the Re-evaluation Announcement, the registrant informed the PMRA on October 26, 1999 that they wished to discontinue registration of the following products that have not been marketed since March 1997:

- **Dyfonate Technical (Registration Number 23262)**
- **Dyfonate 10-G Granular Soil Insecticide (Registration Number 0609)**
- **Dyfonate 20-G Granular Soil Insecticide (Registration Number 13334)**

The PMRA has accepted the registrant's request and these products may no longer be distributed and sold after December 31, 2000. Remaining stocks must be exhausted by that date. No amendments to the labels of these products will be accepted.

The trade implications for the export of fonofos-treated crops will be minimal since fonofos has not been marketed for at least two years in Canada. The Canadian survey indicates that its use has been marginal. The U.S. has delayed revocation of the main tolerances for fonofos until 2002.

It is expected that publication of this regulatory document will mitigate any further concerns in this area by informing users of these regulatory developments.

Publication of this Re-evaluation Note concludes the PMRA's re-evaluation of fonofos.