



## Re-evaluation Note

REV2002-05

### **Status of the Re-evaluation of Organophosphate (OP) Pesticides in Canada and the United States (U.S.)**

The purpose of this Regulatory Note is to update registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public on the status of the re-evaluation of organophosphate (OP) pesticides in Canada and the United States (U.S.).

*(publié aussi en français)*

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The purpose of this Regulatory Note is to update registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public on the status of the re-evaluation of organophosphate (OP) pesticides in Canada and the United States (U.S.).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a revised cumulative risk assessment for organophosphate pesticides on June 11, 2002. A copy of the assessment is available through the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/cumulative/rra-op/>. In contrast to the preliminary OP cumulative risk assessment released in December 2001, which focussed on the methods used to estimate cumulative exposure and risk, this document describes the potential cumulative risk of OP pesticides by presenting a range of estimates that reflect the variability inherent to such a large assessment. The revised assessment incorporates comments received from the public and from the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* Science Advisory Panel on the preliminary assessment. Specific revisions include consideration of the *Food Quality Protection Act* safety factor as it applies to the OP cumulative assessment, an analysis of the upper tails of the exposure distributions, and an analysis of multiple time periods of exposure. While the revised assessment is not a final risk management decision document, the preliminary results support a high level of confidence in the safety of the U.S. food supply. The EPA is accepting public comments on the revised cumulative risk assessment until August 21, 2002.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) provided substantial comment to the EPA on the December 2001 preliminary assessment and endorses the approaches taken in the revised assessment. Interested parties are requested to provide comment on the revised assessment directly to the EPA within the comment period and to provide a copy to the PMRA. Given the complexity of the issue, it is the PMRA's intention to also have consultation within Canada on the cumulative risk assessment methodology.

Over the next few months, the PMRA will continue to assess the applicability of the U.S. preliminary assessment to the Canadian situation through consideration of differences in the Canadian use patterns and environment. It is expected that the PMRA will use the revised EPA assessment to the greatest extent possible. As noted in Re-evaluation Note REV2001-05, *Update on the Re-evaluation of the Organophosphate Pesticides*, stakeholders are encouraged to identify any Canadian-specific use information, water monitoring, or other data that could be used to refine the Canadian assessment, and to advise the PMRA if they no longer support any registered uses.

The PMRA is continuing individual aggregate assessments for the OPs and will be announcing further decisions and actions during 2002. To date, regulatory actions have been announced for seven OP pesticides. Further updates and details will be provided in the future as the Canadian cumulative risk assessment for the OPs is finalized.