



## Re-evaluation Note

REV2003-09

### Update on the Re-evaluation of Heavy Duty Wood Preservative Creosote

The purpose of this Re-Evaluation Note is to notify registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public of the current status of the re-evaluation of creosote in Canada. Creosote is a heavy duty wood preservative under re-evaluation in Canada (Agriculture Canada Announcement A92-02 *Re-evaluation of Heavy Duty Wood Preservatives*) and is one of three heavy duty wood preservatives (the others being pentachlorophenol and chromated copper arsenate) under co-operative re-evaluation between Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The USEPA has released, for public comment, a preliminary risk assessment for creosote as a heavy duty wood preservative December 5, 2003, [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides). As part of the co-operative re-evaluation of creosote, the PMRA directs all interested parties to this Web site to obtain the documentation for this preliminary risk assessment and directions for providing comments. Any comments should be provided to the USEPA as per these directions and copied to the PMRA at the address below.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will accept written comments on this proposal up to 60 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward all comments to the Publications Coordinator at the address below.

*(publié aussi en français)*

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The PMRA has been working closely with the USEPA on the re-evaluation of creosote. The USEPA consultation process includes releasing preliminary risk assessments for comment by stakeholders and the public, prior to finalizing the risk assessments and before risk management proposals are developed. The preliminary risk assessment document for creosote outlines the health and environmental risk assessments; however, it is not a decision or risk management document.

Although the risk assessment is preliminary, the PMRA is in the process of identifying and introducing, as an interim measure, enhanced exposure mitigation measures for workers in creosote pressure-treatment facilities.

The PMRA has established an agreement with the Canadian registrant of creosote to voluntarily discontinue commercial, non-pressure treatment applications of creosote (including dipping, spraying and brushing scenarios). Canadian registrants have already agreed to phase out domestic uses of creosote.

The PMRA invites and encourages the public and all interested parties to provide comments on the preliminary risk assessment document to both the PMRA and the USEPA. All comments will be reviewed by the PMRA and the USEPA following completion of the public comment period and the risk assessments will be revised as appropriate. The final risk assessment is targeted to be completed in 2004. Risk management/mitigation options will be developed following the publication of the final risk assessments.