



Re-evaluation Note

REV2001-05

Update on the Re-evaluation of the Organophosphate Pesticides

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The purpose of this Regulatory Note is to advise registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public of the status of the re-evaluation of organophosphate (OP) pesticides in Canada and the United States, and of the ongoing efforts to harmonize the pesticide regulatory systems.

The United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its preliminary cumulative risk assessment for the organophosphate pesticides on December 3, 2001. This preliminary assessment is neither a final risk determination nor a risk management decision document for the OPs. It will be revised by the EPA following a 60-day public comment period, and re-released as a revised risk assessment in August 2002.

The PMRA has participated in various projects to develop the cumulative risk assessment methods and has provided input on associated EPA science policies required to implement the new standards mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act. Canadian regulators, building on gains achieved through previous harmonization efforts, continue to review EPA policies and procedures, and are adapting these to the Canadian regulatory framework.

The PMRA has actively monitored the development of the American cumulative OP assessment and will be providing comment to the EPA on their preliminary assessment. Other interested parties are requested to do the same within the 60 day comment period and should provide a copy to PMRA. Given the complexity of the issue, it is also our intention to have consultation within Canada on the cumulative risk assessment methodology. The PMRA will assess the applicability of the U.S. preliminary assessment to the Canadian situation. It is expected that the PMRA will use the revised EPA assessment to the greatest extent possible with consideration, where appropriate, of differences in Canadian use patterns.

Stakeholders are also encouraged to identify any Canadian specific use information and water monitoring, or other data that could be used to refine the Canadian assessment. The PMRA may contact selected stakeholders to obtain further data in these areas. Registrants are also encouraged to advise the PMRA during this comment period if they no longer support any registered uses, in particular, residential uses.

Concurrently, the PMRA will continue 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.