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The following are news tips from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

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## THE PMRA AND THE EPA ANNOUNCE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW JOINT REVIEWS

Two proposed reduced-risk pesticides, pyraclostrobin and acetamiprid, have been accepted for joint review by the pesticide regulatory agencies in both Canada and the United States. Pyraclostrobin (with end-use products Headline EC and Cabrio EG) has been submitted for registration by BASF as a fungicide for use on grain and fruiting vegetables. Acetamiprid (with end-use products Pristine RTU Insecticide, Chipco Tristar 70WSP, Adjust 70WP and Assail 70WP) has been submitted by Aventis for registration as an insecticide, one that could serve as an alternative to organophosphates and lindane for use on various vegetables, fruits and ornamentals, and as a seed treatment. Because of the large size of the submission for acetamiprid an eighteen-month review timeline is planned.

Famoxadone, submitted by Dupont for registration as a fungicide for use on potatoes, fruiting vegetables and lettuce, has been accepted as a negotiated joint review by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The technical grade active ingredient famoxadone has been submitted for review, along with one end-use product, Tanos 50 DF, which also contains cymoxanil.

These joint reviews are being conducted within the North American Free Trade Agreement's Technical Working Group on Pesticides (NAFTA TWG) by the PMRA and the EPA. Joint reviews are an important element of the ground-breaking international harmonization of pesticide regulation now under way among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico under NAFTA. They facilitate the registration of alternative pest

control tools, increase the efficiency of the registration process and provide more equal access to pest management tools in all three countries.

## PHASING OUT DOMESTIC USES OF DIAZINON

The PMRA has reached an agreement with manufacturers that will result in a voluntary discontinuation of certain diazinon uses and products. Diazinon is a commonly used lawn and turf pesticide in Canada.

Novartis and Makhteshim, the two basic manufacturers of diazinon, have agreed to implement this discontinuation through a phase-out approach, which will see indoor and non-agricultural outdoor uses of diazinon disappear by 2003, including all uses on lawns and turf. This will help reduce human and environmental exposure and allow for the transition to other means of managing turf pests. The schedule for this phase-out is similar to the agreement recently reached between diazinon manufacturers and the EPA in the U.S.; however, Domestic Class products for use on lawns by homeowners will be phased out one year earlier here in Canada.

Diazinon is currently being re-evaluated as part of the priority re-evaluation of organophosphates announced by the PMRA in June 1999. The re-evaluation is aimed at ensuring that currently registered products meet modern safety standards, including new approaches to risk management that place specific emphasis on risk to children.

Details on the phase-out, which is commencing this year, can be found in the Re-evaluation Note REV2000-08, *Update on Re-evaluation of Diazinon*

in Canada, available on the PMRA web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/rev/rev2000-08-gb-e.pdf>.

### **PMRA DECISION FRAMEWORK ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

An explanation of the basis for PMRA regulatory decision making is contained in the Science Policy Notice SPN2000-01, *A Decision Framework on Risk Assessment and Risk Management in the Pest Management Regulatory Agency*.

The PMRA's decision framework is built upon a comprehensive body of scientific evidence and scientific methods that allows the Agency to determine the nature and magnitude of the risks posed by pesticides. Once risk is assessed, appropriate and effective risk management strategies for the protection of both human health and the environment can be developed. The framework provides for a systematic application of science to support the PMRA's regulatory decisions. It also enhances the predictability and transparency of the process that protects the health of Canadians and their environment.

The document describing the PMRA's decision framework on risk management and risk assessment is available at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/spn/spn2000-01-gb-e.pdf>.

### **SEED TREATMENTS FOR REPLACEMENT OF LINDANE AND ORGANOPHOSPHATE PRODUCTS**

The PMRA has issued temporary registrations for the active ingredient thiomethoxam and the end-use products Helix and Helix XTra. These two new products can serve as replacements for lindane and organophosphate products, and their review was part of a work-sharing project within the NAFTA TWG by the PMRA and the EPA.

Both these new products contain thiamethoxam, an insecticide, and the currently registered fungicides difenoconazole, metalaxyl-M and fludioxonil and are seed treatments to control flea beetles and various seedling diseases.

Syngenta Crop Protection Ltd. will provide additional toxicology and value studies as well as a stewardship program as a condition of this temporary registration. Following the review of this data, the PMRA will publish a proposed regulatory decision document and request comments from interested parties before making a final regulatory decision. Details on this temporary registration can be found in the Regulatory Note REG2001-03, *Thiamethoxam, Helix, Helix XTra*, on the PMRA web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/reg/reg2001-03-gb-e.pdf>.

### **NEW FUNGICIDE TO CONTROL POWDERY MILDEW AND APPLE SCABS**

A temporary registration has been issued for the active ingredient kresoxim-methyl and Sovran, an end-use product. Sovran is a fungicide for the control of apple scab and powdery mildew in apple orchards. This product is part of the strobilurin group of fungicides.

The registrant, BASF Canada, must provide additional environmental and occupational exposure studies as a condition of this temporary registration. Following the review of the requested data, the PMRA will publish a proposed regulatory decision document and request comments from interested parties before a final regulatory decision will be made.

Details on the temporary registration of Sovran and kresoxim-methyl can be found in REG2000-14, *Kresoxim-methyl Technical Sovran® Fungicide*, available on the PMRA web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/reg/reg2000-14-gb-e.pdf>.

### **AZOXYSTROBIN FUNGICIDES FOR GRAPE, CANOLA AND TURF**

Temporary registrations have been issued for a number of fungicide products developed by Zeneca Agro containing the active ingredient azoxystrobin. Abound Fungicide and Abound Flowable Fungicide are used to control black rot, downy mildew and powdery mildew on grapes; Quadris Flowable Fungicide and Quadris Fungicide control black leg, black spot and *Sclerotinia* stem rot on canola; and

Heritage Fungicide controls a number of diseases on turf.

Azoxystrobin is a broad spectrum systemic fungicide from the strobilurin group. It is active at very low doses against a wide range of fungal pathogens, compared with the other major classes of systemic fungicides.

Zeneca Agro will be providing additional residue, environmental and efficacy studies as a condition of temporary registration. Following the review of this data, the PMRA will publish a proposed regulatory decision document and request comments from interested parties before making a final regulatory decision.

For more information on the temporary registration of these products, please consult REG2000-15, *Azoxystrobin*, available at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/reg/reg2000-15-gb-e.pdf>.

### **CONTROLLING ANNUAL GRASS AND BROADLEAF WEEDS IN EASTERN CANADA**

The herbicide Converge 75 WDG, a product containing isoxaflutole, has been granted a temporary registration under the *Pest Control Products Act*. Isoxaflutole is the first member of a new class of herbicides referred to as the isoxazoles. Converge 75 WDG provides Eastern Canadian field corn growers with another choice in controlling various species of annual grass and broadleaf weeds.

Aventis will carry out rotational crop studies as a condition of the temporary registration. Once this data has been reviewed, a proposed regulatory decision document will be published to request comments from interested parties before making a final regulatory decision.

Further details about the temporary registration of this product is available on the PMRA web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/reg/reg2000-16-gb-e.pdf>.

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