PMRA POINTS

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The following are news tips from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

PMRA PROGRAM TO INCREASE ACCESS TO REDUCED-RISK PRODUCTS

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has introduced a new program to encourage the registration of reduced-risk products in Canada. Reduced-risk products include those based on lower risk chemicals and biopesticides, including those for minor use and urban use. The reduced-risk program builds on the approach used in the current U.S.–Canada joint review program for reduced-risk pesticides.

The program is designed to encourage pesticide manufacturers to apply for Canadian registration of reduced-risk products that are currently available in the U.S. Canada will use the same criteria as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine the eligibility of chemicals for the reduced-risk program and recognize the EPA's biopesticide designation, thus further harmonizing the approaches between the two countries. Through this program, the PMRA will also commit to shorter review timelines for products that have been shown to qualify as a reduced-risk chemical or biopesticide. For example, the review time for a new chemical that is accepted as reduced risk will be 15 months, comparing favourably to the EPA review time of 22 months. For new biopesticides that are pheromones, the review time for a complete submission will be 6 months, which is identical to the EPA review time. For reduced-risk products that are submitted under the EPA–PMRA Joint Review Programs, the review time will continue to be 12–18 months.

The reduced-risk or biopesticide designation does not mean reduced from normal data requirements or no data requirements, and an adequate data package is required with any submission. In addition, any product submission with a reduced-risk or biopesticide designation will undergo a thorough evaluation and risk assessment. The expedited review times given to reduced-risk products will not compromise Canadian safety standards in anyway. As with all pesticides, registration will only be considered if the proposed product meets current health and environmental safety standards.

It is expected that this program will result in the registration of an increased number of reduced-risk products for use in horticulture, which is traditionally considered to be a minor use market, and in the urban use area.

This program will be important to all Canadians. Farmers and other pesticide users will benefit from increased access to reduced-risk pesticides. Ensuring a safe and dependable food supply and lowering risks from pesticides are important in maintaining Canadians' health and protecting their environment.

PHEROMONE REVIEW TIMELINES REDUCED UNDER THE JOINT REVIEW PROCESS

The PMRA and the EPA have established a process for the joint review of pest control products in which the new active ingredient is a microbial or an arthropod semiochemical (including pheromones). As an incentive for companies to use the biopesticides joint review process, pheromones and microbials submitted jointly to both agencies currently are granted a 12-month review.

As an additional incentive to register pheromones, the two agencies are introducing a 6-month review time for pheromone submissions that come jointly to both agencies. A longer time frame will be required if the substance is not a straight chain lepidopteran pheromone (SCLP), if a toxicity issue is raised for the formulation, or if an occupational or food residue risk assessment is triggered. By encouraging the submission of pheromone products, the PMRA continues to uphold its mandate to encourage sustainable pest management practices and to encourage the registration of reduced-risk products.

For additional information on the joint review process, please consult the updated *Procedures for Joint Review of Microbials and Semiochemicals*, which can be found on the PMRA website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/nafta/naftajr/nafta-jr_micro-e.pdf.

LINDANE PHASEOUT SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Following the recent completion of the Special Review of lindane, the PMRA has announced the phaseout of the remaining registered uses.

Lindane-treated mustard, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprout, cauliflower and rutabaga seeds can be used until October 1, 2002. Treated wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax, corn, bean, soybean and pea seeds can be used until December 31, 2004. Retail sale and use of the product in 2003 and 2004 allows for an orderly phase-out, and there will be significantly less use of lindane in those years compared with 2002 and earlier. The end result will be that all lindane registrations will be cancelled on December 31, 2004.

Further details of the phaseout schedule are available in the Re-evaluation Note REV2002-02, *Update on the Special Review of Lindane and the Status of Lindane Registration*, available on the PMRA website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/rev/rev2002-02-e.pdf.

DEET INSECT REPELLENT RE-EVALUATION COMPLETE: HIGH CONCENTRATION AND COMBINATION PRODUCTS TO BE PHASED-OUT

The PMRA has completed its re-evaluation of insect repellents containing DEET.

As a result of the re-evaluation, retail sales of products with a concentration greater than 30% DEET will end on December 31, 2004. It was found that two applications per day of a product of 30% concentration provides more protection than one application of 100% DEET per day. The PMRA also recommends that only products with a DEET concentration of 10% or less be used on children between the ages of 2 and 12.

New use instructions for DEET will appear shortly on product labels. In the meantime, consumers are strongly advised to consult the *Safety Tips on Using Personal Insect Repellents* that is available on the PMRA website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/pnotes/deet-e.pdf.

Combination DEET and sunscreen products are also to be phased out with retail sales ending on December 31, 2003. These products are being phased out due to the conflicting use patterns of sunscreen and insect repellents, as sunscreens are applied liberally, while insect repellents are applied sparingly.

Further details on the decisions resulting from the re-evaluation of DEET are available in the Re-evaluation Decision Document RRD2002-01, *Personal Insect Repellents Containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide and Related Compounds)*, available on the PMRA website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/rrd/rrd2002-01-e.pdf.

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