

## Special Review of Pest Control Products Containing Lindane

The purpose of this document is to notify registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and other interested parties that pest control products containing the active ingredient lindane are now subject to a special review under Section 19 of the Pest Control Products Regulations.

*(publié aussi en français)*

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## **Purpose**

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## **Current Use Pattern**

Lindane, an insecticide consisting primarily of the gamma isomer of hexachlorocyclohexane, is used predominantly in agriculture as a seed or soil treatment to protect crops. Some of these uses are being voluntarily withdrawn by registrants in cooperation with grower associations, e.g., Canadian Canola Growers Association, Canola Council of Canada. The only above-ground uses of lindane are minor livestock uses (two products) for which alternatives exist.

## **Rationale**

The decision to review lindane-containing products was influenced by the following:

- Lindane is under national and international scrutiny as a result of its persistence, potential for long-range transport and widespread occurrence in the environment. Many unanswered questions remain regarding the potential impact on humans and wildlife of various isomers of lindane found in the environment.
- Canada, the United States (U.S.), European countries and Russia have recently negotiated an international protocol on persistent organic pollutants under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution of the United Nation's Economic Commission for Europe. This agreement established obligations aimed at restricting or eliminating chemical substances that contribute to transboundary pollution, including a commitment to restrict the uses of lindane and to conduct a reassessment of all remaining uses. In North America, Canada, the U.S. and Mexico are considering taking regional action on lindane under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation.

## **Scope**

The scope of issues surrounding lindane is potentially broad. Initially the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will examine the chemistry of existing lindane products registered in Canada, and the extent to which these products may contribute to levels of various isomers in the environment. The PMRA will consult with other Canadian government departments and international regulatory agencies, e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to benefit from ongoing reviews of lindane. The PMRA's current understanding of lindane suggests the issues

are complex and merit a special review at this time. As a better understanding of the potential for adverse effects becomes known, the scope of this review may change.

## **Data required**

No data is required at this time. Registrants and interested parties will be notified of specific data requirements as necessary in the near future.

## **Registration of products containing lindane**

Pending completion of this special review, the PMRA will not consider use expansions. In addition, all new products, registration renewals and amended registrations that are granted in 1999 will expire December 31, 1999. All subsequent new products, registration renewals and amended registrations will be for a period not exceeding one year until this special review is complete. The registration status of all lindane-containing products will depend on the outcome of this review. The target date for completion of this review is December 2000.

All inquiries related to this special review should be addressed to:

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