



COMMUNIQUÉ

REPORT OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE ON PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDES

October 24- 26, 2005, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

The ninth meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was recently held in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. It was co-chaired by Karen Linfield, Pesticide Control Section, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation, and Trish MacQuarrie, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada.

This committee brings together provincial, territorial, and federal representatives who are involved in pesticide regulation, use, and management to enable the exchange of information and coordination of actions related to pest management issues. The regulation of pesticides in Canada is mainly governed by federal and provincial legislation. This committee builds strong linkages that facilitate effective, efficient management and solutions to shared concerns. The FPT Committee also serves as a vehicle for the discussion of current pesticide and pest management issues.

The half-day Technical Session on Monday morning provided FPT members with detailed information on PMRA's environmental risk assessments and buffer zones.

Main areas of discussion at the FPT Committee meeting were as follows:

Working Group Reports

The FPT addresses a number of their challenging issues through its associated working groups. The following is a summary of the status or progress of the various working groups since the FPT Committee met last year.

The Classification Implementation Working Group (CIWG) reported on progress made towards establishment of a harmonized approach for the classification of domestic products. Through consensus building and ongoing discussions, it is expected that a domestic product framework will be achieved. A work plan outlining the activities and time lines, including opportunities for stakeholder involvement, is being developed and the plan will be posted on the CIWG web site.

The Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WGPETC) reported on the completion of priority items on their Workplan including the Structural module and the Aerial module (pending translation and posting to the website). The Working Group continues to make progress on the Mosquito and Biting Flies module and has initiated the update of the Agriculture module. They also updated FPT on optional Workplan activities (initiated National Aerial Manual update, finalizing the National Aerial Exam and NAFTA Core Exam).

The working group indicated that their first priority remains with maintaining the Standard for Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada. They requested that FPT approve the increased priority of national manual development. It was discussed that provincial resources available for applicator/vendor training/certification are limited and that further collaboration on the creation of training manuals would be of benefit. FPT agreed to explore the feasibility of developing national modules in situations where there is consistency in application methods across the country, e.g., industrial vegetation, or for smaller categories where individual provinces do not have enough numbers to warrant creation of manuals. The working group has been requested to prepare a more formal proposal to present to FPT.

The HLWG reported to FPT on its continued efforts to reach homeowners with messages on integrated pest management practices with regard to lawn care and on progress on improved labelling of household use products. The HLWG mentioned to FPT that the HealthyLawns.net website was remodelled to be more user friendly for homeowners and other target groups to access information. HLWG will continue discussions with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to examine concerns related to fertilizer/herbicide combination products. FPT continues to support these efforts and encourages the HLWG to finalize the remaining workplan commitments as quickly as possible. The FPT considered the request of the HLWG to broaden their mandate to include other urban issues.

The PMRA Buffer Zone Working Group (BZWG) held a workshop in March 2005 to resolve issues raised by provinces on the Buffer Zone Proposal, finalize key elements of the Buffer Zone Proposal, learn how the PMRA calculates Buffer Zones and to identify how Buffer Zones should appear on product labels. The Buffer Zone Regulatory Proposal will be published in early November for public comment and the BZWG will be notified of its public release.

The use of a pesticide risk indicator has been agreed upon by FPT members as one performance indicator reflective of pesticide risk reduction efforts in Canada. The Working Group has agreed on a reference model to be used by PMRA and interested Provinces and this model is now in the process of being adapted to Canadian needs. PMRA will be providing Provinces access to pesticide information and characteristics needed by the model and maintaining an updated database. Interested Provinces will be providing pesticide use data to the Working Group for generating risk trends. Stakeholder consultations will be carried out to generate both improvements to the model and consolidate its use.

The Minor Use Working Group continues to meet regularly by conference call as well as annually with its key stakeholders to review and establish Canadian minor use priorities as well

as resolve minor use issues.

Other main areas of discussion included:

1. updates from the respective provinces and topics of mutual interest;
2. FPT members' participation and representation on external committees;
3. activities relating to the product re-evaluation process; and the access to an electronic summary of re-evaluation actions and decisions;
4. PMRA's Risk Reduction Strategy for pest management in agriculture;
5. a summary of emergency registration decisions for 2005; and
6. a need for annual information exchange related to specific and general compliance items.

Stakeholder Involvement

Changes to the format for the Stakeholder Session prior to commencement of the formal FPT Committee meeting were introduced to encourage dialogue with stakeholders. The FPT Committee identified three topics for discussion:

1. Industry-sponsored / industry-led training program
2. Responsible pesticide container management
3. Domestic product Classification

Invited stakeholders also identified topics of interest (e.g. IPM Training and Testing, Own Use Import Program) for discussion at the session.

The next provincial co-chair is Louison Fortin from the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec. The next meeting of the FPT Committee is planned for Quebec City in October 2006.