
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Information Note

July 2005

Regulation of Pest Control Products Containing Lindane

Lindane is an insecticide that was registered for use in Canada as a seed treatment to protect crops at the pre-emergence stage. A Special Review of lindane was completed in October 2001. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) decided to phase-out, in Canada, all uses of lindane for which alternatives exist by 2002 and all other uses by the end of 2004. This decision was based on the determination of unacceptable risks through occupational exposure.

Announced in March 1999, the Special Review of lindane was undertaken because lindane is recognized internationally as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP), i.e., toxic substance that does not readily break down in the environment and builds up in the food chain. There has been extensive international interest in restricting and eliminating the use of lindane.

All pesticide registrants, with the exception of Crompton Co., requested voluntary discontinuation of sales for the remaining uses of lindane. The registrations held by Crompton have been suspended. As a result, Crompton requested that the Minister of Health establish a Board of Review to examine the decisions affecting their lindane products, as is their right under the *Pest Control Products Act*.

The Board of Review functions independently of government including Health Canada's PMRA. It held public hearings during January 2005 and is currently preparing a report with recommendations which the Minister of Health will then consider. Its role is strictly advisory and the Minister is not bound to act on its recommendations. The report is expected in Summer 2005.

About the PMRA

Health Canada's PMRA is responsible for the regulation of pesticides in Canada, including the re-evaluation of older pesticides. A Special Review, such as the one that was conducted for lindane, is a type of re-evaluation.

Pesticides are stringently regulated under the *Pest Control Products Act* in Canada. Before a product is registered for use, the PMRA conducts a comprehensive and rigorous scientific assessment to ensure the product does not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment and to assess its value. If the assessment does not indicate that a product can be used safely, it is not registered for use in Canada.



In addition, the PMRA has a re-evaluation program in place to determine whether currently registered pesticides remain acceptable for use. Manufacturers must demonstrate their products meet the latest health and environmental risk assessment standards. The current focus of the re-evaluation program is on all products that were registered before January 1, 1995.

There are currently 401 active ingredients slated for re-evaluation under the current re-evaluation program. As of March 31, 2005, re-evaluation decisions have been made or proposed for 182 active ingredients.

Need More Information?

Visit the following links on the PMRA's website to read more about the topics discussed in this document.

Lindane

Lindane Board of Review

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/lindane/lindane-e.html

Special Review Announcement

Special Review of Pest Control Products Containing Lindane

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/sra/sra9901-e.pdf

Re-evaluation Documents

PMRA Re-evaluation Workplan (April 2004 to June 2005) (REV2004-06)

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2004-06-e.pdf

Progress Report on the PMRA Re-evaluation Workplan (April 2003–June 2004) (REV2004-05)

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2004-05-e.pdf

PMRA Re-evaluation Program Workplan (April 2003–June 2004) (REV2003-08)

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2003-08-e.pdf

PMRA Re-evaluation Program (DIR2001-03)

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/dir/dir2001-03-e.pdf

Assessment of Risk

Fact Sheet on The Regulation of Pesticides in Canada

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/fact/fs_pestreg-e.pdf

or for more information on the PMRA in html format:

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/aboutpmra/about-e.html



A Decision Framework for Risk Assessment and Risk Management in the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (SPN2000-01)
www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/spn/spn2000-01-e.pdf

Government Regulations

New Pest Control Products Act
www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/pestcont-e.html



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