
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Information Note

25 January 2005

Special Review of Pest Control Products Containing Lindane

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) administers the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA), under which pesticides are registered for use in Canada. Such a registration must be supported by a determination, based on an evaluation of scientific data, that the health and environmental risks and value of the product are acceptable. The PMRA's responsibilities also include the periodic re-evaluation of registered products to determine if they continue to be acceptable for use. Where the re-evaluation is prompted by evidence of concern as to the continuing acceptability of the product it is designated as a "special review".

Pesticides containing lindane were registered for use in Canada as seed treatments to protect crops at the pre-emerging stage. A special review of lindane was announced in March 1999 in response to the fact that lindane is recognized internationally as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP), that is, as a toxic substance that does not readily break down in the environment and builds up in the food chain.

In the course of the special review it was determined that the occupational health risks posed by the use of lindane products were unacceptable. As a consequence the decision was made to phase-out the use of such products through voluntary discontinuation of sales or suspension of the registrations. In response to that decision, all of the registrants of such products, except Crompton Co./Cie (Crompton), gave notice of intent to discontinue sales of their products. The Crompton registrations were suspended. All authorized lindane seed treatment uses were terminated by the end of 2004.

In accordance with the regulations under the current PCPA, Crompton requested that a Review Board be established to hold a hearing on the registration decisions concerning its products. Such a Board was established as required by the regulations to consider the issues placed before it by Crompton, in particular, the determination by the PMRA that the occupational health risks posed by lindane seed treatment products are unacceptable. The Board commenced its hearing on 10 January 2005 to consider information presented to it in relation to that matter.

Under the current PCPA, only an unsuccessful applicant for registration or a registrant whose registration is suspended or cancelled may request a hearing to have the decision reconsidered by a Review Board. This is done in accordance with the mandate established for the Board by the requester, in this case, Crompton. The new PCPA, which is not yet in force, will change the approach to the reconsideration of registration decisions.



The role of a Review Board is strictly advisory. Having conducted a hearing, it must report its findings and recommendations, which may result in the decision under review being altered or confirmed.

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

<http://www.pmra.ca/english/lindane/lindane-e.html>

Special Review Announcement (SRA Series)

<http://www.pmra.ca/english/pdf/sra/sra9901-e.pdf>

Re-evaluation Documents

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

<http://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)

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2004-05-e.pdf>

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

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2003-08-e.pdf>

PMRA Re-evaluation Program (DIR2001-03)

<http://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 in html format: <http://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)

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/spn/spn2000-01-e.pdf>



Government Regulations

Pest Control Products Act

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/legis-e.html>

New Pest Control Products Act

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/pcpa-e.html>



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