

Reduced-Risk Products

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What are they?

- conventional chemicals also includes biopesticides (microbials, pheromones, other biopesticides)
- pesticides that are reduced risk relative to already existing pesticides with the same uses in the market
- does not mean low risk or no risk
- does not imply reduced from normal data requirements
- must meet same health and environmental safety standards

What determines reduced-risk?

Conventional Chemicals:

- A subjective assessment made prior to the full risk assessment
- based on a comparison of one or more factors e.g.: lower acute or chronic toxicity, lower rates, better environmental profile, less harmful to beneficial organisms
- may be reduced risk in one area but similar risks in another e.g. identified cancer endpoint in 2 chemicals but one has a more favourable environmental profile therefore reduced risk
- This pre risk assessment designation can be removed because of issues flagged through the risk assessment

Facilitating registration of reduced risk pesticides in Canada

- PMRA and U.S.EPA have a joint review program under the NAFTA that gives reduced review timelines to reduced-risk chemicals (i.e. 12 months vs. 18 or more)
- U.S.EPA has a reduced risk committee for conventional chemicals
- PMRA accepts the U.S.EPA designation of reduced risk for conventional chemicals
- PMRA accepts the U.S.EPA designation of biopesticides (microbials, pheromones, other biopesticides)

Facilitating registration of reduced risk pesticides in Canada

- PMRA has also introduced a program for reduced risk chemicals submitted to Canada only, that provides reduced timelines for review
- We use the same criteria as the U.S.EPA to determine reduced risk for conventional chemicals

Status

- As of March 31, 2004, 72% of the conventional reduced risk chemicals and 31% of the biopesticides which are registered in the U.S. are registered or pending registration in Canada.

Factors limiting access to biopesticides

- narrow spectrum of uses
- very small market, limited business case
- perceptions regarding registration requirements in Canada vs. U.S. (substantially harmonized)

Next Steps

- Increased consultation with industry on the submission of reduced risk candidates, particularly through the Joint Review program
- Continue to work with U.S. and European Biopesticide Industry to encourage submissions

What is the advice of Council concerning Reduced Risk Products?