

**United States and Canada
Register First Pheromone under
North American Free Trade Agreement
Joint Review Program**

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have simultaneously registered the Eastern Pine Shoot Borer Pheromone, a product developed by Bedoukian Research Inc. (active ingredient) and 3M Canada (end-use product). It is the first pheromone to be registered under the Joint Review Program of the North American Free Trade Agreement Technical Working Group on Pesticides (NAFTA TWG). The first pheromone to be registered for use in forestry in Canada, and the first product to be registered in Canada for use against the Eastern Pine Shoot Borer, it will be a valuable tool for forest pest managers in protecting pine forests and woodlands from insect damage. The product will be available in both countries for use this summer.

This biopesticide joint review registration gives forest managers their first opportunity to use a new and important type of pest control product. The experience of this joint review has also led to a further fine-tuning of the process of harmonizing data requirements between Canada and the U.S., which should help expedite further joint biopesticide reviews. Pheromones act by modifying behaviour of the pest species rather than killing it, are more target-specific than conventional insecticides, are used at concentrations close to those occurring in nature, and dissipate rapidly. For these reasons, it is expected that most pheromone products will pose low potential risk to human health and the environment compared with conventional pesticides.

(publié aussi en français)

April 23, 1999

This document is published by the Submission Management and Information Division, Pest Management Regulatory Agency. For further information, please contact:

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Joint reviews are a key element of the ground-breaking international harmonization of pesticide regulation now under way between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico under NAFTA.

Joint reviews:

- C facilitate the registration of safer, alternative pest control tools in both the U.S. and Canada;
- C increase the efficiency and harmonization of the registration processes; and
- C provide more equal access to pest management tools.

The joint review process is continuing to evolve and expand. Several other joint-review/work-share submissions are expected over the next year. Joint-review guidelines are available on the PMRA's Internet site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/qinter2-e.html>.

Currently, joint reviews are confined to reduced-risk chemicals and biopesticides (microbials and pheromones.) This constraint is necessary to limit volume in these early stages, while the process and procedures are still being refined. The longer-term objective is to make joint reviews a standard operating practice of pesticide registration in North America.