

FIRST PHEROMONE ACCEPTED AS CANDIDATE FOR CANADA-U.S. JOINT REVIEW

A submission for registration of a pheromone (insect mating attractant) has been accepted for joint review by the pesticide regulatory agencies in both the United States and Canada. This joint review is being conducted within the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Technical Working Group on Pesticides by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

3M MEC Eastern Pine Shoot Borer Pheromone Concentrate is a pest control product submitted for registration by 3M and proposed for use in forests and woodlands. The pest control agent is Bedoukian 9-Dodecenyl Acetate Technical Pheromone. If this pheromone is accepted for registration, the product will be used as a mating communication disrupter to control Eastern Pine Shoot Borer.

Before making a registration decision concerning a new pest control product, a careful assessment must be completed of the health and environment risks and the value of the product. Acceptance for joint review does not imply that the product will be registered. In the joint review process, each country uses individual reviews completed by the other, thereby streamlining the registration process. Joint reviews do not, however, reduce the stringent safety standards that exist for pesticide regulation in both countries.

The Biopesticides Joint Review Program and the Reduced Risk Chemicals Joint Review Pilot Program are important elements of the ground-breaking international harmonization of pesticide regulation under way between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico under NAFTA.

Joint reviews:

- facilitate the registration of alternative pest control tools;
- increase the efficiency of the registration process; and,
- provide more equal access to pest management tools in both countries.

The opportunity for joint review is presently confined to reduced risk chemicals and biopesticides. This constraint is necessary to limit volume while the process and procedures are being refined. The longer term objective is to make joint reviews a standard operating practice of pesticide registration in North America.

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