



Label Improvement Program Mercury In-Can Paint Preservatives and Copper and Zinc Naphthenate Wood Preservatives

In 1990, the Antimicrobials Section of the Pesticides Directorate initiated two label improvement programs. The first, for mercury in-can paint preservatives resulted from a regulatory decision to remove "Interior Use" from labels of latex paints containing mercury. The second, for copper and zinc naphthenate wood preservatives, was initiated by the Directorate to have registrants voluntarily update product labels. The objective of the label improvement program is to upgrade label quality, consistency and accuracy, and to clearly reflect current use conditions and practices as well as modern health and environmental safety standards.

(publié aussi en français)

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Background

Mercury Based In-Can Paint Preservatives

Mercury based in-can paint preservatives have been registered under the *Pest Control Products Act* for the control of microbial contamination, in paint, since 1979. The end-use paints and their components (including mercury) are regulated under *The Hazardous Products Act*, which is administered by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada.

Concerns raised in the United States over higher than acceptable levels of phenylmercuric acetate (PMA) in paints for interior use prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to undertake a review of mercurial compounds in paints. To avoid possible health risks, the EPA decided to eliminate mercury as an in-can preservative in consumer paints for interior use.

No concerns related to mercury in paints have been reported in Canada during the past 20 years. However, based on an investigation by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, and an assessment of potential health risks by Health and Welfare Canada, the decision was made to eliminate the use of mercury compounds in indoor latex paints. The Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA) supported the withdrawal and all Canadian manufacturers and formulators of the preservative voluntarily agreed to remove “interior uses” from their product labels.

Copper and Zinc Naphthenate

Wood preservatives containing copper and zinc naphthenate have been registered under the *Pest Control Products Act* since 1943. Concerns relating to the misuse of products containing these ingredients prompted a review of their product labels. The review indicated that many of the older labels did not measure up to current label standards. In particular, label use patterns involving interior use are no longer considered appropriate. The reference to applications by dip and spray for domestic products are also out of date due to limited homeowner access to the appropriate technology and adequate safety equipment for these application methods.

Implementation

Mercury Based In-Can Paint Preservatives

In August 1990, a label improvement program for mercury based in-can paint preservatives was initiated by the Pesticides Directorate to remove all references to uses of latex paints for interior applications. The following warning statement (identical to the statement proposed by the EPA) is required on all labels:

FOR EXTERIOR USE ONLY

This product contains a phenyl mercury compound as a biocide for in-can preservation or mildew control. This product is intended solely for exterior use in well ventilated areas. Use of this product inside or to treat any materials used inside any building or structure, may be hazardous to your health and the health of those occupying the building. Some children may be particularly sensitive to mercury. Keep this product out of reach of children.

All registrants voluntarily agreed to make the necessary label changes. Recognizing the existing scientific knowledge base of mercurial compounds as in-can preservatives in paint products and the number of alternative compounds available, registrants were advised to re-evaluate this use with a view to withdrawing the remaining uses of mercury as an in-can paint preservative from the Canadian market.

In July, 1991, a negotiated settlement with the EPA resulted in the voluntary cancellation of all exterior paint uses for mercury compounds in the United States. The EPA cancelled the registration status of phenylmercuric oleate in the United States, and to date, the status of phenylmercuric acetate remains unsupported.

Copper and Zinc Naphthenate

The label improvement program for copper and zinc naphthenate wood preservatives was initiated in October, 1990, following the objectives outlined for label improvement programs. In addition to removing "interior use" and the application by dip and spray for domestic products, a generic model label was prepared to illustrate current labelling standards in relation to the directions for use, precautionary statements, first aid and disposal instructions. The generic model labels, for each type of product (Appendix), represent the minimum text which must appear on the product labels.

The majority of registrants have already amended their labels or have applied to make revisions to labels at the time of next printing. Since label amendments were done at the request of Agriculture Canada, no fees were charged for the changes. Applications for registration of new products or amendments to existing products will require labelling as per the attached model labels before registration will be granted.

Current Status

Label improvement program initiatives have been favourably received by registrants and product users. There is a general acceptance of the merits of consistency in labelling for products containing the same active ingredients. In addition, difficulties experienced by users due to inadequate or ambiguous product labelling can be overcome. The voluntary implementation of a label improvement program has been effective and is seen as less adversarial than the formal regulatory process. However, a formal regulatory approach can be taken for registrants who choose not to take advantage of the voluntary route. Registrants are being given ample opportunity to phase out

older labels through sales. However, there will be an opportunity to review their commitment to upgrade labels when registrations come due for renewal in 1995.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Note to CAPCO to:

Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2250 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6606D1
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Distribution:

Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials
Public Interest Groups
User Groups

[SAMPLE LABEL]

[PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL]

[CUN Copper Naphthenate - domestic]

YOUR BRAND DESIGNATION

Wood Preservative

DOMESTIC

READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING

GUARANTEE: Copper Naphthenate___ %
Copper (as elemental)___ %

REG. NO. 00000 P.C.P. ACT

FOR EXTERIOR USE ONLY
NOT FOR USE IN DWELLINGS

DANGER



POISON

SKIN IRRITANT

NET CONTENTS

Your company, Your street (or P.O. Box no.)
Your city, Your province, Postal Code

[SECONDARY DISPLAY PANELS]

[CUN Copper Naphthenate - domestic]

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

For exterior use only. Not for use in dwellings.

For above ground use only.

Apply by brush only. Do not spray or dip.

Do not use the preservative on treated wood where copper naphthenate may contaminate food, feed or drinking water.

Wood surface to be treated should be dry and clean. Remove all paint, varnish, wax, or any other coating that may prevent penetration.

Allow to dry thoroughly before painting or re-coating. Use caution with some paint finishes as they may cause bleeding.

Use as supplied - do not dilute.

Do not apply to wood or fabric or any surface where prolonged skin contact may occur.

May be used on greenhouse and garden timbers in close contact with non-food producing plants only. Carrier solvent must be allowed to dry before introducing plants to prevent phytotoxicity.

For Fabric Use:

For use only on exterior industrial fabric, duck cloth, awnings, etc.

Do not use on rubber coated fabric.

Apply by brush or swab only. Do not spray or dip.

PRECAUTIONS

Keep out of reach of children.

Do not use or store near open flame or spark.

Avoid breathing vapours. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

Wear rubber or plastic gloves and appropriate covering clothing when applying this product.

Wash thoroughly after use with soap and water and before eating or smoking.

Keep container closed when not in use.

May cause skin irritation. Avoid skin contact.

Do not contaminate bodies of water. This product is toxic to fish.

FIRST AID

If splashed in eyes, flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes and contact a physician.

If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Call a physician immediately.

In case of skin contact, remove the product from the skin promptly by washing with vegetable oil or hand degreaser and then with soap and water.

TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Contains petroleum distillates and copper naphthenate. Treat as for ingestion of kerosene.

DISPOSAL AND STORAGE

Do not reuse empty container. Dispose of empty container in household trash. Store unused product out of reach of children. Do not store in areas subject to excessive heat.

[SAMPLE LABEL]

[PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL]

[CUN Copper Naphthenate - commercial]

YOUR BRAND DESIGNATION

Wood Preservative

COMMERCIAL

READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING

GUARANTEE: Copper Naphthenate___ %
Copper (as elemental)___ %

REG. NO. 00000 PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT

FOR EXTERIOR USE ONLY
NOT FOR USE IN DWELLINGS

DANGER



POISON

SKIN IRRITANT

NET CONTENTS

Your company, Your street (or P.O. Box no.)
Your city, Your province, Postal Code

[SECONDARY DISPLAY PANELS]

[CUN Copper Naphthenate - commercial]

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

For exterior use only. Not for use in dwellings.

Apply to wood surface by brush only for on-site field applications.

For industrial use only in commercial spraybox, flow coating or dip tank equipment which is free of leaks. Equipment must have provision to eliminate or contain mist, overspray, drips and spillage into the surrounding environment.

Use of this product in industrial settings requires adequate engineered ventilation and containment measures in the treating area and in the area where wood is dried.

Do not use the preservative or treated wood where zinc naphthenate may contaminate food, feed or drinking water.

May be used on greenhouse and garden timbers in contact with non-food producing plants only. Carrier solvent must be allowed to dry thoroughly before introducing plants to prevent phytotoxicity.

For Fabric Use:

For use only on exterior industrial fabric, duck cloth, awnings, etc.

Do not use on rubber coated fabric.

Not for use on fabrics which may come into prolonged contact with skin.

PRECAUTIONS

Flammable. Do not use or store near open flame or spark or in areas subject to excessive heat.

Avoid breathing concentrated vapours. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

Wear rubber or plastic gloves and appropriate covering clothing when applying this product. Use goggles in case of splash hazard.

Use a cartridge respirator appropriate for the job conditions, e.g. poorly ventilated areas.

Wash thoroughly after use with soap and water and before eating or smoking.

Keep container closed when not in use.

May cause skin irritation. Avoid skin contact.

Do not contaminate bodies of water. This product is toxic to fish.

Keep out of reach of children and animals.

FIRST AID

If splashed in eyes, flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes and contact a physician.

If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Call a physician immediately.

In case of skin contact, remove the product from the skin promptly by washing with vegetable oil or hand degreaser and then with soap and water.

TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Contains petroleum distillates and copper naphthenate. Treat as for ingestion of kerosene.

NOTICE TO USER

This control product is to be used only in accordance with the directions on this label. It is an offense under the Pest Control Products Act to use a control product under unsafe conditions.

DISPOSAL

1. Rinse the emptied container thoroughly and add the rinsings to treatment site.
2. Follow provincial instructions for any required additional cleaning of the container prior to its disposal or reconditioning.
3. Dispose of the container in accordance with provincial requirements.
4. For information on the disposal of unused, unwanted product and the cleanup of spills contact the regional office of Environment Canada.
5. For small spills recover free liquid. Soak up residue with solids absorbent. **DO NOT FLUSH INTO SURFACE STREAMS. INFORM ENVIRONMENT CANADA AS IN #4.**

[SAMPLE LABEL]

[PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL]

[ZNN Zinc Naphthenate -domestic]

YOUR BRAND DESIGNATION

Wood Preservative

DOMESTIC

READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING

GUARANTEE: Zinc Naphthenate___ %
Zinc (as elemental)___ %

REG. NO. 00000 P.C.P. ACT

FOR EXTERIOR USE ONLY
NOT FOR USE IN DWELLINGS

DANGER



POISON

SKIN IRRITANT

NET CONTENTS

Your company, Your street (or P.O. Box no.)
Your city, Your province, Postal Code

[SECONDARY DISPLAY PANELS]

[ZNN Zinc Naphthenate - domestic]

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

For exterior use only. Not for use in dwellings.

For above ground use only.

Apply by brush only. Do not spray or dip.

Wood surface to be treated should be dry and clean. Remove all paint, varnish, wax, or any other coating that may prevent penetration.

Allow to dry thoroughly before painting or re-coating.

Use as supplied - do not dilute.

Do not apply to wood or fabric or any surface where prolonged skin contact may occur, or on any surface which may come into contact with food, feed or drinking water.

Clean equipment (brushes, trays, etc) with mineral spirits, then with detergent and water.

Harmful to plant life when wet. Allow to dry thoroughly before permitting contact.

For Fabric Use:

For use only on exterior industrial fabric, duck cloth, awnings, etc.

Do not use on rubber coated fabric.

Apply by brush or swab only. Do not spray or dip.

PRECAUTIONS

Keep out of reach of children.

Flammable. Do not use or store near open flame or spark or in areas subject to excessive heat.

Avoid breathing vapours. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

Wear rubber or plastic gloves and appropriate covering clothing when applying this product.

Wash thoroughly after use with soap and water and before eating or smoking.

Keep container closed when not in use.

May cause skin irritation. Avoid skin contact.

Do not contaminate bodies of water. This product is toxic to fish.

FIRST AID

If splashed in eyes, flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes and contact a physician.

If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Call a physician immediately.

In case of skin contact, remove the product from the skin promptly by washing with vegetable oil or hand degreaser and then with soap and water.

TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Contains petroleum distillates and zinc naphthenate. Treat as for ingestion of kerosene.

DISPOSAL AND STORAGE

Do not reuse empty container. Dispose of empty container in household trash. Store unused product out of reach of children or animals.

[SAMPLE LABEL]

[PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL]

[ZNN Zinc Naphthenate - commercial]

YOUR BRAND DESIGNATION

Wood Preservative

COMMERCIAL

READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING

GUARANTEE: Zinc Naphthenate___ %
Zinc (as elemental)___ %

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Use of this product in industrial settings requires adequate engineered ventilation and containment measures in the treating area and in the area where wood is dried.

Do not use the preservative or treated wood where zinc naphthenate may contaminate food, feed or drinking water.

For Fabric Use:

For use only on exterior industrial fabric, duck cloth, awnings, etc.

Do not use on rubber coated fabric.

PRECAUTIONS

Flammable. Do not use or store near open flame or spark or in areas subject to excessive heat.

Avoid breathing vapours. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

Wear rubber or plastic gloves and appropriate covering clothing when applying this product.

Use a cartridge respirator appropriate for the job conditions, e.g. poorly ventilated areas

Wash thoroughly after use with soap and water and before eating or smoking.

Keep container closed when not in use.

May cause skin irritation. Avoid skin contact.

Do not contaminate bodies of water. This product is toxic to fish.
Keep out of reach of children and animals.

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