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The following are news tips from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

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## **MINISTER OF HEALTH PROPOSES NEW PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT**

Health Minister Anne McLellan proposed a new Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) on March 21, 2002, to strengthen and modernize the regulation of pesticides in Canada and enhance protection of Canadians' health and their environment.

The proposed PCPA 2002 would create new opportunities for public input into the pesticide regulatory system and provide the public with access to the detailed health, environmental and value reports that are required before a pesticide can be registered. The new act would enshrine up-to-date risk assessment methods such as extra safety factors for the protection of children and the need to assess aggregate exposure and cumulative effects of pesticides. The PCPA 2002 would also provide the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) with additional enforcement and inspection powers, and enhance the re-evaluation program for older pesticides. For further information on the PCPA 2002, please consult the PMRA's website at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/legis/pcpa-e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/legis/pcpa-e.html).

## **AGREEMENT REACHED ON CCA-TREATED WOOD TRANSITION**

The manufacturers of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) in Canada have agreed that by December 31, 2003, arsenic-containing preservatives will no longer be used on wood for consumer use. Lumber used in play structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios, walkways and boardwalks will not be treated with CCA after this date. Remaining stocks of wood treated prior to this date can still be sold in stores and used for

residential construction in Canada. The terms of this agreement are the same as those announced this past February by CCA manufacturers in the United States (U.S.) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Health Canada's PMRA has facilitated this agreement by giving priority review to replacement wood-treatment products for CCA. Alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ) amine and copper azole will now be available to wood treaters in Canada as alternatives for CCA.

## **USING TREATED WOOD SAFELY**

Procedures that should be followed when using treated wood include:

- \* **Never** burn treated wood in open fires, stoves, fireplaces or residential boilers.
- \* Always wash hands thoroughly after contact with treated wood.
- \* Food should not come into direct contact with any treated wood.

However, there is no need for consumers to remove or replace existing structures constructed with CCA-treated wood, such as decks or playground structures. Neither the PMRA nor the U.S. EPA have concluded that there is any unacceptable risk to the public or environment associated with the proper use of CCA-treated wood structures.

If consumers have concerns about existing structures on their property that are built from treated lumber, such as decks or fences, they may consider applying a coating to the wood. While available data are very limited, some studies suggest the application of certain penetrating

coatings (e.g., oil-based, semi-transparent stains) on a regular basis (e.g., once per year or every other year depending upon wear and weathering) may reduce the migration of wood preservative chemicals from CCA-treated wood. The use of non-penetrating coatings such as paint or urethane on outdoor surfaces is **not recommended**, as subsequent peeling and flaking may ultimately have an impact on durability as well as exposure to the preservatives in the wood. The use of deck washes on CCA-treated wood is also not recommended.

For further information, users of treated wood can consult the *Consumer Safety Information Sheet on CCA Preserved Wood* prepared by Environment Canada's Strategic Options Process Treater/Manufacturers Steering Committee, available at <http://www.ccasafetyinfo.ca>.

### **A NEW BIOPESTICIDE—MICROBIAL TREE SPROUT INHIBITOR FOR FORESTRY USE**

The PMRA has issued a temporary registration for the naturally-occurring fungus *Chondrostereum purpureum* (HQ1). One end-use product, Myco-Tech (TM) Paste, used for inhibiting sprouting and regrowth of cut tree stumps, was also registered. This product was developed by the Quebec company Myco-Forestis Corporation.

Microbial pest control agents such Myco-Tech (TM) are increasingly being investigated as alternatives to conventional pesticides because they generally pose a lower risk to human health and the environment. Myco-Tech represents a reduced-risk option for vegetation management in forests.

For more information on this temporary registration, please consult Proposed Regulatory Decision Document PRDD2002-01, *Chondrostereum purpureum* (HQ1) and RDD2002-02, *Chondrostereum purpureum* (HQ1)

and Associated End-Use Product Myco-Tech™ Paste available on the PMRA website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/prdd/prdd2002-01-e.pdf>.

### **NEW GROWTH REGULATOR FOR GOLF COURSES**

In response to a User Requested Minor Use Registration submission, trinexapac-ethyl and its associated product Primo MAXX Turf Growth Regulator, developed by Syngenta Corporation, have been issued a full registration by the PMRA.

Primo MAXX is used to suppress the growth of turf grasses on sod farms and golf courses. Using this product would allow golf courses to reduce mowing frequency and would improve the turf's colour and density, thereby preventing weed infestations.

For more information on the registration of these products, please consult Regulatory Decision Document RDD2002-01, *Trinexapac-ethyl*, available on the PMRA website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/rdd/rdd2002-01-e.pdf>.

### **ORGANOPHOSPHATE INSECTICIDE SULFOTEP DISCONTINUED**

Sulfotep, one of the organophosphate insecticides under re-evaluation by the PMRA, has been voluntarily discontinued by its registrant in Canada. The single end-use product containing sulfotep is registered as a greenhouse fumigant to control a variety of insect pests on ornamental plants.

The registrant of the greenhouse fumigant stopped selling and distributing the product in Canada in December 2000. Under the authority of the Pest Control Products Regulations, distribution and sale of this product was allowed until December 31, 2001, and use of the product is permitted until December 31, 2004.

*Pest Management Regulatory Agency*

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For more information on the discontinuation of sulfotep, please consult Re-evaluation Decision Document REV2001-04, *Discontinuation of the Organophosphate Pesticide Sulfotep*, available on the PMRA website at [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/rev/rev\\_2001-04-e.pdf](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/rev/rev_2001-04-e.pdf).

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