



Re-evaluation Decision Document

RRD2004-11

Phorate

The purpose of this Re-evaluation Decision Document (RRD) is to notify registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public that the re-evaluation of phorate is now complete.

This RRD presents a summary of comments made to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in response to the Proposed Acceptability for Continuing Registration document (PACR2003-01), *Re-evaluation of Phorate*, published on 24 January 2003, the PMRA's responses to the comments and the regulatory decisions resulting from the re-evaluation of phorate.

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1.0 Introduction

The re-evaluation of the active ingredient phorate, an insecticide produced by BASF Canada Inc., and the associated uses on corn, lettuce, beans, rutabagas and potatoes, has been completed by the PMRA.

2.0 Background

The PMRA announced in June 1999 that organophosphate active ingredients, including phorate, were subject to re-evaluation under authority of Section 19 of the Pest Control Products (PCP) Regulations.¹ The purpose of this RRD is to notify registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public that the re-evaluation of phorate is now complete.

The PMRA published PACR2003-01, *Re-evaluation of Phorate* on 24 January 2003 for consultation on the proposed regulatory decision for phorate. The PMRA received comments from grower groups, provincial governments, scientists and the public regarding this PACR.

This RRD presents a summary of the comments received by the PMRA regarding PACR2003-01, the PMRA's responses to the comments (Appendix I) as well as the regulatory decisions resulting from the re-evaluation of phorate.

3.0 Regulatory decision

The PMRA reviewed the comments received and has concluded that minor changes are required to the proposed regulatory decision in PACR2003-01. PMRA has concluded that the use of phorate and associated end-use products (EP) in accordance with the label does entail an unacceptable risk of harm to the environment pursuant to Section 20 of the PCP Regulations. As a result, the PMRA has determined that all uses for phorate are to be phased out as outlined below.

Uses of phorate and associated end-use products on corn, lettuce, beans and rutabagas were discontinued by the registrant as of 31 December 2003; the last date of use by growers will be 31 December 2004. After consideration of comments received on PACR2003-01, with respect to lack of alternatives to phorate for control of wireworm on potatoes, the PMRA has accepted registration of phorate, for this use only, until 31 December 2006. Based on the assessments for phorate, the end-use product label is to be revised as described in Appendix II.

¹ Re-evaluation document REV99-01, *Re-evaluation of Organophosphate Pesticides*

3.1 Thimet 15G Soil & Systemic Insecticide Granular

3.1.1 Corn, lettuce, beans and rutabagas

In light of the identified risks to the environment for Thimet 15G Soil & Systemic Insecticide Granular (Registration No. 10532, *Pest Control Products Act* [PCPA]), the PMRA has determined that uses on corn, lettuce, beans and rutabagas are to be phased out. The registrant, BASF Canada Inc., has accepted this decision and has discontinued sale of Thimet 15G Soil & Systemic Insecticide Granular with the label bearing these uses, effective 31 December 2003. Last date for such uses of Thimet 15G Soil & Systemic Insecticide Granular by growers will be 31 December 2004.

3.1.2 Potatoes

BASF has agreed to discontinue sales of Thimet 15G Soil & Systemic Insecticide Granular for use on potatoes under the following terms and conditions:

- (1) Last date of sale of Thimet 15G by BASF: 31 December 2005
- (2) Last date of sale of Thimet 15G by distributors or retailers: 1 May 2006
- (3) Last date for use of Thimet 15G by end-users: 31 December 2006.

BASF has agreed to amend the label to reflect the remaining use and additional precautionary statements as listed in Appendix II.

The remaining use of Thimet 15G Soil & Systemic Insecticide Granular will be cancelled on 31 December 2006. Disposal of any product that still remains following cancellation of the registration would be at the expense of the owner, i.e., the registrant, distributors, retailers and users, as applicable.

Appendix I Comments and responses

Comments were received by the PMRA from potato grower groups in Alberta and New Brunswick, provincial governments, scientists and the public concerning PACR2003-01, *Re-evaluation of Phorate*, published on 24 January 2003. The PMRA has summarized the comments received and provides a response to the comments below.

Comments pertaining to Value Assessment – control of wireworm on potatoes

Comment

All of the comments addressed similar concerns about the lack of alternative insecticides to control wireworms on potatoes. Wireworm damage on potatoes can reduce the quality, and subsequently the marketability of the crop. Most of the respondents have asked the phase-out of phorate to be delayed for two years until December 2006.

Response

The wireworm problem on potatoes can be extensive, especially where potatoes are planted in fields that were previously planted with grass or grain crops. The PMRA recognizes the extent of this problem and the lack of commercially acceptable alternatives and has agreed to extend the phase-out period for phorate on potatoes for wireworm control only, to allow for transition to alternatives.

Appendix II Use standard for RESTRICTED class products containing phorate for the interim period until phase-out of all uses at the end of 2006

(NOTE: The information in this appendix summarizes the acceptable uses, limitations and minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) for the Restricted Class product containing phorate resulting from this re-evaluation. This use standard does not identify all label requirements for individual end-use products such as first aid statements, disposal statements, precautionary statements, and supplementary PPE that may be required. Additional information on labels for currently registered products should not be removed unless it contradicts information in this use standard.)

COMMON NAME: phorate

CHEMICAL NAME: *O,O*-diethyl S-[(ethylthio)-methyl] phosphorodithioate

FORMULATION TYPE: G: Granular

SITE CATEGORIES: USC# 14, Terrestrial Food Crops

Product must be available for use in closed systems (Lock'n Load packaging) only.

PRECAUTIONS

Personal protective equipment (PPE):

See Engineering controls for additional requirements.

Mixers and loaders must wear the following during loading, clean-up and repair activities:

- Chemical resistant apron and gloves

Engineering Controls:

Applicators must be in fully enclosed cabs or if not in fully enclosed cabs, applicators must wear additional personal protective equipment and clothing:

- Chemical resistant coveralls over long pants and long sleeves
- Chemical resistant gloves
- Respirator (respirators can have either an organic vapour-removing cartridge with a prefilter approved for pesticides (MSHA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-23C), or a canister approved for pesticides (MSHA/NIOSH approval number prefix TC-14G)

Ask dealers about suitable types of respirators.

Restricted entry interval (REI):

- Do not enter or allow workers to enter into treated areas during the REI of 48 hours.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: This product is highly toxic to birds, small mammals, fish and aquatic invertebrates. Its use poses a high risk to these species as has been documented by incident reports of adverse effects. One granule is sufficient to kill a small bird or small mammal.

ACCEPTABLE USE FOR PHORATE UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2006

Site	Pests	Rate (g product/100 m)	Application instructions and limitations
POTATO	Wireworm	140 in sandy or light soil. 215 in silt or heavy soil.	Distribute the granules evenly in the furrow or granules may be banded on each side of the row at planting time. Do not use in muck soils. Do not apply later than at planting time. Do not harvest potatoes before 90 days after planting time.