



Re-evaluation Note

REV2003-07

Update on CCA

The purpose of this Re-Evaluation Note is to notify all stakeholders including the Canadian public, registrants and pesticide regulatory officials of the current status of the re-evaluation of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) in Canada, specifically with respect to the risk assessment for children. CCA is a heavy duty wood preservative under re-evaluation in Canada (Announcement A92-02, *Re-evaluation of Heavy Duty Wood Preservatives*) and is one of three heavy duty wood preservatives (the others being pentachlorophenol and creosote) under co-operative re-evaluation between Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The PMRA has been working closely with the USEPA on the reviews.

(publié aussi en français)

November 13, 2003

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

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ISBN: 0-662-34768-4 (0-662-34769-2)

Catalogue number: H113-5/2003-7E (H113-5/2003-7E-PDF)

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Canada 2003**

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In April 2002, the manufacturers of CCA informed the PMRA that they would voluntarily cancel their registrations for residential uses of CCA-treated wood. Accordingly, after December 31 of this year, wood intended for uses such as playground equipment, decks, fences, walkways and landscape timbers cannot be treated with CCA.

A draft report entitled *Probabilistic Exposure and Risk Assessment for Children Who Contact CCA-Treated Wood on Playsets and Decks* is now available for scientific peer review and public comment. This report is posted for public comment on the USEPA Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap/>.

Due to the innovative scientific techniques used in this risk assessment, the USEPA is convening a Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) on December 3–5, 2003 to seek independent expert scientific advice on the data and methodology used in this assessment. The PMRA will participate in this meeting. After receipt and consideration of the panel's recommendations, the assessment will be revised, as appropriate, and finalized. There is an opportunity for public comment from both Canadian and U.S. stakeholders during the SAP meeting. Alternatively, written comments to be considered by the SAP should be submitted no later than noon, Eastern standard time, on November 25, 2003. Further information on submission of public comments may be found at the following Web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-MEETINGS/2003/September/Day-26/m24402.htm>

It is important to note that since this draft risk assessment is undergoing public and scientific review, its findings are preliminary in nature and are subject to additional analysis and potential change. It is, therefore, premature for the PMRA and the USEPA to reach conclusions about the potential for CCA-treated playsets and decks to contribute to cancer risk in children.

Furthermore, in order to help consumers make informed choices about CCA-treated wood used around their homes, a study is being conducted in the U.S. on how sealants can reduce or eliminate exposure to arsenic in CCA-treated wood. Results from this work are expected to be available in the U.S. and Canada in 2004.