

ROLE OF CHC'S CROP PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The goal of the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC)'s Crop Protection Advisory Committee is to develop and advance crop protection management policies and programs that promote the economic viability and competitiveness of Canadian farmers within a sustainable development framework.

The committee pursues several crop protection-related issues:

- Environmentally sustainable and economically viable policies for crop protection
- Promoting sustainable development within the horticultural industry
- Facilitation of a rigorous registration system that is timely and open to all registrant submissions of products that meet our needs
- Continuation and improvement of the Minor Use Program
- Development of a harmonized registration system with the U.S. as well as other countries, leading to equal access to products and similar residue tolerances
- Adaptation initiatives, both economically and environmentally sustainable, for crop production and protection
- Ensures the CHC maintains an active involvement in identifying areas of common interest with farmers in other countries (in particular the U.S.) and working towards the resolution of Canadian issues through international channels

COMPOSED OF a dedicated group of CHC members who possess expertise in the areas of crop protection, plant health and environmental issues, combined with hands-on experience as growers.

MEETS semi-annually and on an as-needed basis with senior officials from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), in addition to regularly scheduled committee meetings.



PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY (PMRA)

The Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for pesticide regulation in Canada. Created in 1995, this branch of Health Canada consolidates the resources and responsibilities for pest management regulation. Under authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada:

- Registers pesticides after a stringent, science-based evaluation that ensures any risks are acceptable; and the product has value
- Re-evaluates the pesticides currently on the market on a 15-year cycle to ensure the products meet current scientific standards;
- Promotes sustainable pest management

EMERGENCY USE REGISTRATION PROCESS

'Emergency' means a situation has occurred that can cause significant economic, environmental, or health problems; there is no effective product or application method registered in Canada for the problem; and there is no effective, alternative control method available. Emergency registrations are typically allowed for products where the active ingredients are already registered in Canada.

TRANSITION STRATEGIES

For certain critical uses of pesticides being phased-out through the Re-evaluation Program, the PMRA is committed to working with stakeholders toward a reasonable transition process. To this end, the PMRA is providing discussion forums for affected commodity groups. These will help encourage and facilitate the transition to safer alternatives by assisting commodity groups to gain access to lower risk pesticides and management practices.

HOW TO REGISTER

Emergency registration requires a sponsor, which normally is the provincial or federal agency involved in the direct management of the pest problem (e.g. the provincial Ministry of Agriculture, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), etc.) The sponsor is responsible for making the submission and providing the necessary information to support the proposed registration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain an electronic copy of the document, Regulatory Directive: Registration of Pesticides for Emergency Use, please contact publications@bc-sc.gc.ca.

Or, contact the Pest Management Information Service at pmra_infoserv@bc-sc.gc.ca or 1-800-267-6315, or visit the PMRA website at: http://www.bc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/protect-proteger/regist-homolog/_review-eval/emergency-urgence-eng.php.

MINOR USE: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

A “minor use” pesticide refers to the crop protection treatments – fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides – usually used on low acreage, high value crops, or where pest control is only needed on a small portion of the overall crop acreage. These pesticides are usually used in such small quantities that manufacturers find the sales potential is not sufficient for them to seek registration in Canada.

As a consequence, the Canadian growers of minor crops may only have access to a very limited number of registered pesticide products. Many of these pesticide uses are seen as essential to cost-effective pest control and resistance management, thereby maintaining the competitiveness and sustainability of the sectors.

URMULE / URMURE

In an effort to support Canadian growers in developing sustainable pest control strategies and maintaining their competitiveness in the international market, PMRA is actively involved in several initiatives and programs to increase the number of products available to the growers of minor crops in Canada.

PMRA has put in place programs such as the **User Requested Minor Use Label Expansions (URMULE)** and the **User Requested Minor Use Registrations (URMUR)**, the minor use joint reviews, and the pilot Technology Gap program.

STANDARD SUBMISSIONS

The PMRA encourages the addition of minor uses by the registrants in their regular submission at the time of first registration or when expanding the use patterns in order to prevent technology gap increase in a pro-active manner.

JOINT REVIEWS

The Joint Review program is a formal process between Canada, the United States and Mexico, with negotiated timelines, where the workload is split among participating regulatory authorities and the reviews of data are exchanged and peer-reviewed. The scope of the current Joint Review program includes review of all conventional agricultural chemicals for new active ingredients with the goal of a harmonized and simultaneous registration decision by all participating regulatory authorities.

PROGRAM 914

Program 914, a pilot project first introduced in 2006, helps to address the technology gap in minor use active ingredients by allowing Health Canada to utilize U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews to reduce Canadian registration needs before a submission is even made. Collectively, Program 914 has yielded 479 minor uses for a wide range of commodity sectors across Canada.

APPROACH

- Use the CHC's list of priority active ingredients (“Top Ten”), along with active ingredients of interest to other commodity groups
- Use available EPA data package and reviews (DERs, REDs)
- Complete the review in an expedited manner

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Minor Use process contact the Pest Management Information Service at pmra_infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca or **1-800-267-6315**.

Or visit the Health Canada website:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/hl-pesticides-ps/index-eng.php

MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVEL (MRL) HARMONIZATION

The U.S. - Canada MRL Harmonization Database (to be renamed the U.S. – Canada Grower Priority Database) is an information source for U.S. and Canadian growers, registrants, and regulatory officials. The database can be found at www.mrlharmonization.com. The database is designed to capture grower identified priorities for resolving differences in available crop protection tools and MRLs in the United States and Canada. At present, the database only contains U.S. priorities. PMRA is working with stakeholders (e.g. CHC, Pulse Canada, Canola Council, etc.) to build a database of Canadian priorities. Once complete the Canadian priorities will be merged with the online U.S – Canada database and fields will be added to designate country. It is anticipated that the database could be expanded in the future to include Mexican priorities.

Ideally, the database will allow users to go to one place to identify:

- **Potential trade barriers** – situations where an active ingredient or use site is available in one country but not the other;
- **Potential trade irritants** – situations where the two countries have different MRLs
- **(or no MRL) for corresponding use sites; and**
- **Growers' priorities for addressing these discrepancies.**

BENEFITS

The grower community can use the database to define their priority needs for crop production tools that can then be utilized by the regulatory agencies and the registrants to best and most efficiently deal with potential trade issues before they actually become barriers. This is especially true as the United States and Canada move through the registration review/re-evaluation process and through the revocation of the 0.1 general maximum MRL (tolerance) level in Canada. The ongoing debate over the economic value of obtaining a NAFTA-wide registration can be informed through the identification of needs by growers. The database will allow for a cooperative effort to develop market incentives to obtain comparable use spectrums and regulatory thresholds in both countries.

CONTACT

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PEST MANAGEMENT CENTRE (PMC)

AAFC established the PMC to implement the Pesticides Risk Reduction and Minor Use Pesticide Programs in 2003. Both programs are jointly delivered by PMC and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada.

Roles and Responsibilities

MINOR USE PESTICIDE PROGRAM

This program responds to the needs of Canadian minor crop growers for improved access to new minor uses of pesticides. From its headquarters in Ottawa, it coordinates value and residue trials at nine research centres located across the country. The Program then compiles and submits data packages to the PMRA in support of User Requested Minor Use Label Expansions (URMULEs). Alternatively, data packages may be provided to registrants to submit with their submissions for new active ingredients. Research to identify new solutions for recalcitrant pest management problems is also supported through the Minor Use Pesticide Program.

PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

The focus of the joint AAFC/PMRA Pesticide Risk Reduction program is the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the risks associated with the use of pesticides in agricultural crops. The Program consults with growers, experts, and other stakeholders in establishing priorities and mapping out strategic action plans. Since 2007, the PRR Program has provided support to 65 different multiyear projects targeting horticulture crops, with total budgeted support of more than \$4M. Included in this list of projects, are new project initiated in the spring of 2011, looking at resistance of apple scab pathogen to fungicides across the country, and integrated weed management for field vegetables using cover crops and zone tillage.

Since 2007, the PRR program have facilitated regulatory submissions of 14 bio-pesticide products, and have seen the registration of 123 new bio-pesticide uses.

CONTACT

For more information about Pest Management Centre programs, contact:

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For more information about PMRA's role under the program, contact the Pest Management Information Service at pmra_infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca or 1-800-267-6315

For more information on the Annual Biopesticides Priority Setting Workshop visit: www.agr.gc.ca/biopesticides

MINOR USE WORKSHOP

The AAFC Minor Use Pesticide Priority-Setting Workshop is held annually, usually in late March, to determine national priorities which then become projects for the PMC. Representatives from a broad range of stakeholder groups – including producers, provincial minor use coordinators, pesticide manufacturers, crop specialists, as well as representatives from the U.S. IR-4 Specialty Crop program and provincial and federal governments – attend the workshop.

INTERREGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT NO. 4 (IR-4)

AAFC's Minor Use Pesticide (MUPP) program was modelled after a similar program in the United States, Interregional Project #4, or as it more commonly known, the IR-4 Program. Recently, collaboration between the two programs has increased greatly. The appropriate data is jointly accumulated in the U.S. and Canada, with submissions made to respective pesticide regulatory agencies concurrently (in Canada, PMRA, and in the U.S. the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)). This saves time by reducing duplication of data collection activities. Through these efforts, growers on both sides of the border with the same crop/pest problem, can have new uses of crop protection products registered in both countries simultaneously. Since 2003, numerous joint Canada/U.S. minor use projects have been undertaken.

For a copy of the Status of all the joint MUP and IR-4 projects to date, contact:

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NAFTA TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PESTICIDES

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the governments of Mexico, Canada and the United States formed the Technical Working Group on Pesticides (TWG) in 1996 to develop a coordinated pesticides regulatory framework among NAFTA partners to address trade irritants, build national regulatory/scientific capacity, share the review burden, and coordinate scientific and regulatory decisions on pesticides. The TWG is comprised of individuals from the member governments, but works closely with external stakeholders. Since the beginning of the NAFTA TWG, there have been differences in needs, speeds and approaches for Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)s and registration gaps between countries.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Grower groups headed by the CHC have created priority lists on:

- Technology Gap of unregistered but desirable active ingredients;
- Annual Minor Use priority list for all crop/pest combinations and active ingredient/uses deemed essential
- 'Reduced risk' products desired for selected crops

PMRA has used these lists to compile a single list, and continues to populate it with additional information. Development of an oversight group to review and ensure the validity of the priorities is underway

NEXT STEPS

- Growers must continue to establish their priorities on a consistent and fair basis
- Both Canadian and U.S. governments need to commit the resources to establish a single North American working list, and then to address this list
- Ongoing collaboration with import/export dealers is needed to ease the transition
- Registrant participation must be sought out and solicited by all parties

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the NAFTA Technical Working Group, visit: http://www.bc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/int/_nafta-alena/index-eng.php

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