

UTAH PESTICIDE and TOXIC NEWS



Utah State University Extension

Howard M. Deer, Extension Pesticide Specialist, Editor

Phone: 435/797-1602 • Fax: 435/797-1601 • E-mail: howard.deer@usu.edu • Website: <http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/html/resources/pesticides>

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EPA INITIATES TESTING OF CHEMICALS FOR HORMONE EFFECTS

EPA is poised to begin the most comprehensive testing for hormone effects in U.S. history. To identify chemicals that may have effects on the hormone systems of people and animals, the Agency will soon be requiring testing of the first group of 67 pesticide chemicals through the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP). This scientific screening program will provide information to help EPA identify whether chemicals have the potential to interact with the endocrine system (estrogen, androgen and thyroid systems). It has been developed through a, multi-year research program and validated through a transparent technical review process.

Today EPA is announcing the first chemicals that will undergo evaluation in this program. The list includes chemicals selected on the basis of exposure potential alone and should not be construed as a list of known or likely endocrine disruptors. The list contains pesticide chemicals with relatively high potential for human exposure through pathways such as food and water, residential activity, and agricultural pesticide application. Also being announced today are revised policies and procedures that EPA will follow to order testing, minimize duplicative testing, promote equitable cost-sharing, and protect confidential business information.

Throughout the EDSP, EPA has consistently sought public comment and scientific peer review to ensure this program is scientifically sound. The screens will provide robust and systematic scientific information that will help EPA to identify potential endocrine disruptors. This summer, after the approval of an Information Collection Request, EPA expects to issue test orders to the manufacturers of these 67 chemicals. The EDSP program will eventually screen all other pesticide chemicals.

For more information: www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo

(EPA, 4/15/09)

PCNB NOTICE OF REQUESTS TO AMEND REGISTRATIONS TO TERMINATE USES

Volume 74, Number 59; Page 14122-14125 <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2009/March/Day-30/p7043.htm>

In accordance with section 6(f)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended, EPA is issuing a notice of receipt of requests by the registrants to voluntarily amend their registrations to terminate uses of certain products containing the pesticide pentachloronitrobenzene, or PCNB (Terrachlor). The requests would terminate PCNB use on golf course roughs (i.e., use on golf courses will be limited to tees, greens, and fairways); residential sites including lawns, yards, and ornamental plants and gardens around homes and apartments; grounds around day care facilities; school yards; parks (except industrial parks); playgrounds; and athletic fields (except professional and college fields). The requests would not terminate the last PCNB products registered for use in the United States. EPA intends to grant these requests at the close of the comment period for this announcement unless the Agency receives substantive comments within the comment period that would merit its further review of the requests, or unless the registrants withdraw their requests within this period. Upon acceptance of these requests, any sale, distribution, or use of products listed in this notice will be permitted only if such sale, distribution, or use is consistent with the terms as described in the final order.

For information contact: Jill Bloom, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number: (703) 308-8019; fax number: (703) 308-7070; e-mail address: bloom.jill@epa.gov.

(EPA, 4/15/09)

U.S. AND CANADA TO INCREASE SCRUTINY OF FLEA AND TICK PET PRODUCTS

The EPA is intensifying its evaluation of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for pets due to recent increases in the number of reported incidents. Adverse reactions reported range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and, in some cases, the death of pets.

Flea and tick products can be appropriate treatments for protecting your pets and your family's health because fleas and ticks can transmit disease. While many people use the products with no harm to their pets, EPA recommends that pet owners take precautions when using these products. People should carefully follow label directions and monitor their pets for any signs of an adverse reaction after application, particularly when using these products for the first time. Pet owners may also want to consult a veterinarian about the responsible and effective use of flea and tick products.

Incidents with flea and tick products can involve the use of spot-on treatments, sprays, collars and shampoos. However, the majority of the incidents reported to EPA are related to flea and tick treatments with EPA-registered spot-on products. Spot-on products are generally sold in tubes or vials and are applied to one or more localized areas on the body of the pet, such as in between the shoulders or in a stripe along the back. This advisory pertains only to EPA-registered spot-on flea and tick products; these products have an EPA registration number on the label.

Health Canada has identified similar concerns about the use of spot-on flea and tick products. Health Canada and EPA will meet shortly with spot-on product manufacturers to address the issue, including whether further restrictions are necessary to protect the health of pets.

EPA recommends that veterinarians use the National Pesticide Information Center's Veterinary Pesticide Adverse Effects Reporting portal to report incidents: <http://npic.orst.edu/vet>

More information on pet products and safety tips: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/pets.htm> (EPA, 4/17/09)

CLOMAZONE AND FOMESAFEN ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENTS ISSUED

EPA has completed and is requesting public comment on draft ecological risk assessments for the pesticides clomazone (Command) and fomesafen (Flex). Public comment on the clomazone and fomesafen draft ecological risk assessments is invited through June 22, 2009.

At the same time, the Agency is initiating consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service ("the Services") regarding these pesticides' potential effects to species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. These are the first two national ecological risk assessments and effects determinations for conventional pesticides, conducted within the context of EPA's registration review program. The Agency will review and consider both the public comments received on the draft ecological risk assessments and information provided in the Service's biological opinions, in developing proposed registration review decisions for clomazone and fomesafen.

Clomazone and fomesafen are herbicides used to control weeds and grasses in a variety of crops and non-crop locations. EPA's draft ecological risk assessments and endangered species effects determinations for both clomazone and fomesafen indicate that the use of these pesticides is likely to adversely affect a variety of listed species and may affect elements of designated critical habitat influenced by effects to plants.

After reviewing comments received, EPA will issue final ecological risk assessments, explain any changes from the draft risk assessments, and respond to comments. Once the final risk assessments are completed, the Agency will issue proposed registration review decisions, considering any biological opinion issued by the Services, for clomazone and fomesafen, and request public comment on any proposed risk mitigation.

For additional information, please see:

EPA's Federal Register Notice, April 22, 2009: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2009/April/Day-22/p9231.htm>

Clomazone and Fomesafen Web Fact Sheet: <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/factsheets/clomazone-fomesafen-fs.html>

Clomazone docket, EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0113

Clomazone registration review web page: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/clomazone/index.htm

Fomesafen docket, EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0239

Fomesafen registration review web page: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/fomesafen/index.htm

OPP's Endangered Species Protection Program: <http://www.epa.gov/esp> (EPA, 4/22/09)

LIST OF DISINFECTANTS REGISTERED TO USE AGAINST INFLUENZA A VIRUSES

In response to the emerging threat posed by the spread of the 2009-H1N1 Flu, disinfecting hard surfaces is one way to help stop the spread of this virus. A list of over 500 antimicrobial products registered by EPA for use against influenza A viruses on hard surfaces is available at <http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/influenza-disinfectants.html>.

EPA emphasizes the importance of following label instructions to ensure the safe and effective use of these products in specific sites, including hospitals and other health care settings, homes, schools, offices and farms. Registered disinfectant products are for use on hard, non-porous surfaces, such as door knobs, handles, tables, floors, etc. EPA also emphasizes that these products are not to be used on the skin or to be taken orally. EPA-registered products have label information that states they are effective against "Influenza A virus." As the CDC stresses, the first line of defense should be to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based cleaner. For more information on what you can do to stay healthy, visit www.cdc.gov.

For more information about EPA-registered antimicrobial products, please visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/antimicrobials/>. (EPA, 5/1/09)

PERCHLORATE IN INFANT FORMULA

CDC researchers have found trace levels of perchlorate, a strong oxidizer best known for its use in rocket fuel, in several brands of powdered infant formula sold in the U.S. The highest levels of the contaminant were found in lactose-containing formulas made from cow's milk. The International Formula Council, a trade association, reassured consumers that the levels of perchlorate detected in infant formula are far below those deemed safe by FDA and EPA. But the study suggests that the safe daily dose could be exceeded when perchlorate-contaminated water is used to reconstitute the formula. News of the contaminated formula prompted environmental activists and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) to urge EPA to set a safe level for perchlorate in drinking water immediately instead of seeking a study from the National Academy of Sciences, which could take several years. Perchlorate is of concern because it can interfere with thyroid function. (C&EN, 4/13/09)

FDA EXPANDS WARNING ON DIET PRODUCTS

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded an alert on tainted weight-loss products that contain undeclared, active pharmaceutical ingredients. The most recent alert is the FDA's second expansion since December 22, 2008, when it warned against using 28 weight-loss products that contain potentially harmful ingredients. The list now includes 72 such products, which are not approved by the FDA.

The expanded list includes products marketed as Herbal Xenicol, Slimbionic, and Xsvelten. Some of the products on the alert list are marketed as dietary supplements. They usually are sold on Web sites, in some retail stores, and in beauty salons.

The products, some of which claim their ingredients are natural or herbal, actually illegally contain active pharmaceutical ingredients not listed on the products' labels. These ingredients include

- Sibutramine, a controlled substance and appetite suppressant that is available only by prescription.
- Fenproporex, a controlled substance and stimulant not approved for marketing in the United States.
- Fluoxetine, an antidepressant that is available only by prescription.
- Bumetanide, a potent diuretic only available by prescription.
- Furosemide, also a diuretic available by prescription only.
- Rimonabant, an anti-obesity drug not approved for marketing in the United States.
- Cetilistat, an experimental obesity drug not approved for marketing in the United States.
- Phenytoin, an anti-seizure medication available only by prescription.
- Phenolphthalein, a suspected carcinogen used in chemical experiments that is not approved for marketing in the United States.

For the entire list, see http://www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo/weight_loss_products.htm. Health professionals should report adverse events or product quality problems online at <http://www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm>, by telephone to (800) FDA-1088, or by fax to (800) FDA-0178. (JAMA, 4/22/09)

