

MT17019 – Regulatory Support & Co-ordination

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Below is a summary of various regulatory issues and chemical reviews currently underway both locally and internationally.

DITHIOCARBAMATES

Dithiocarbamate fungicides, e.g. mancozeb, metiram and thiram, are currently approved for use in Australia in a wide variety of fruit and vegetable crops.

Over the last few years the group of have been undergoing re-evaluations by a number of regulatory authorities. Recently completed reviews by the EU and Canada have not resulted in many positive outcomes. Outlined below is a summary of the actions taken by the various regulatory authorities.

Canada

Canada has completed reviews of mancozeb, metiram, thiram and ziram (propineb has no Canadian approval). The results of these reviews are as follows:

- for mancozeb many uses have been deleted and those remaining have had use patterns significantly amended, e.g., reduced limits on the number of applications and extended withholding periods;
- for metiram use has been restricted to foliar applications in potatoes only;
- for thiram only seed treatments have been retained; and
- for ziram all uses have been cancelled.

Europe

Propineb's authorisation was withdrawn in June 2018, the period of grace (allowing final use) expired June 2019.

Mancozeb's authorisation will expire in July 2021, the period of grace (allowing final use) will expire January 2022.

Thiram's authorisation was withdrawn in January 2019, the period of grace (allowing foliar use) expired in April 2019, the period of grace for seed treatment use expired January 2020.

Metiram currently authorised for use with the expiration of approval set for January 2022. It is currently under review with only use in grapes and potatoes supported.

Ziram is currently authorised for use with approval set to expire in April 2022. It is also listed as a candidate for substitution.

India

In 2020 Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare issued a [draft order](#) proposing to prohibit the manufacturing, sale, and import of 27 pesticides including mancozeb, thiram, zineb and ziram.

USA

Mancozeb, thiram and ziram are listed for review in the U.S. under the EPA's 15-year re-registration schedule. Draft Risk Assessments are expected to be published for public comment during the 2021/22.

Codex

The dithiocarbamate group of fungicides have been scheduled for periodic re-evaluation for toxicology and residues by the 2022 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). Assuming the re-evaluations go ahead, recommendations for maximum residue levels from the 2022 JMPR meeting will be discussed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) in 2023. CCPR is the body responsible for establishing Codex MRLs, which cover treated commodities moving in international trade.

APVMA

The APVMA listed the group as priority 1 for review in 2015; with worker and dietary exposure indicated amongst key issues for assessment. It is believed that the Australian review will follow the JMPR re-evaluation in 2022. Given the outcomes internationally industries may need to consider the possibility of adverse outcomes once an Australian review is finalised.

INTERNATIONAL

Canada

The proposed re-evaluation decisions for **difenoconazole** and **pymetrozine** have been published. For difenoconazole risks were shown to be acceptable when difenoconazole is used according to the proposed conditions of registration. For pymetrozine the proposed decision is that continued use was acceptable in glasshouse situations only. All outdoor uses are to be cancelled.

The PMRA has also finalised its reviews of **clothianidin** and **thiamethoxam** in relation to risks to aquatic invertebrates. For both compounds this has meant the cancellation of some horticultural uses, e.g., in-furrow application in potatoes, and changed conditions of use for some seed treatments and foliar uses, e.g., reduced maximum rates and/or numbers of applications.

A reduction of MRLs for **lambda-cyhalothrin** to 0.01 mg/kg has been proposed due to dietary exposure concerns.

The re-evaluation decision for **chlorpyrifos** has recently been updated and all chlorpyrifos uses/products, including those that remained registered following the environmental risk assessment have been cancelled. The Last date of sale by a registrant: 10 December 2021. Last date of sale by retailers: 10 December 2022. Last date of use for all chlorpyrifos uses/products: 10 December 2023

Europe

The European Commission is considering limiting the use of **sulfoxaflor** to protected cropping situations only.

Phosmet is also being considered for non-inclusion due to ecotoxicological concerns.

Isopyrazam (Seguris Flexi) is also being considered by the European Commission for withdrawal. Currently it is authorised until the 31st of March 2023 after which time the product approvals in Member States will expire. It is expected that all EU MRLs will drop to LOQ possibly in 2024.

Austria

The Austrian government has agreed to a partial ban on the use of **glyphosate**. The Austrian pesticide law has been amended to ban the use of glyphosate on “sensitive” areas which include publicly accessible areas like playgrounds, and parks, and areas designated for vulnerable groups

of people like health institutes and retirement communities. It also prohibits private use in home and community gardens. Professional use of glyphosate including most applications in agriculture remain permitted.

New Zealand

The NZ EPA is seeking information on the use of various organophosphates and carbamate insecticides from the perspective of potentially initiating a reassessment. The list of insecticides includes **carbaryl**, **malathion**, **methiocarb** and **methomyl**. It is also seeking information on the use of **glyphosate** as a first step in deciding whether to change the rules around its use.

USA

At the end of April the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit instructed the US EPA to publish a legally sufficient final response to the 2007 petition to ban **chlorpyrifos** within 60 days. The court indicated that the EPA response must be a final regulation that either revokes or modifies all chlorpyrifos MRLs and makes the requisite safety findings based on aggregate exposures.

Chlorothalonil and **tebuconazole** are under review as part of the US EPA’s periodic review program. Most recently the availability of draft risk assessments were announced for public comment with a closing date of July 20th

NATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

APVMA

New Products/Uses

Syngenta

Syngenta applied in June to register **Miravis® Duo** (difenoconazole + pydiflumetofen – Group 7 and Group 3 fungicides) for the control of various diseases in fruiting vegetables, cucurbits, root vegetables and celery. The use in celery is an outcome of Hort Innovation project ST17000.

Sumitomo

Sumitomo applied in April to register inpyrfluxam (**Excalia™**), a new Group 7 fungicide, for the control of Rhizoctonia in potato and yellow sigatoka in bananas.

Label Extensions & Registrations

Bayer

Bayer CropScience applied in April to extend the **Movento**[®] label to include pineapples and blueberries. These uses are an outcome of Hort Innovation project ST16006.

Bayer also applied in May to expand the **Luna**[®] **Sensation** label to include uses against powdery mildew in strawberries, grey mould in strawberries, blackberries and raspberries. These uses are an outcome of Hort Innovation projects ST16006 and ST17000. Bayer have also applied to expand their label for White mould and powdery mildew in green beans.

ISK

ISK applied in June to extend the label for **Kenja**[®] (isofetamid) Fungicide to include the control of Sclerotinia in green beans and lettuce.

Nufarm

Nufarm have registered bromoxynil butyrate (**Maya**[®] Herbicide) for use broadleaf weed control in bulb onions.

Syngenta

Syngenta applied in June to extend the **Switch**[®] Fungicide label to include use on apples to control leaf and fruit blotch caused by *Alternaria* sp. The use is an outcome of Hort Innovation project ST17000.

NB: Label extension, depending upon assessment modules involved, usually take 12 months for the label extension applications to be finalised.

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ST16006 - Generation of Residue, Efficacy & Crop Safety Data for Pesticide Applications in Horticulture Crops 2017

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using the Avocado, Cherry, Citrus, Custard Apple, Lychee, Macadamia, Olive, Persimmon and Vegetable research and development levy, co-investment from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.

ST17000 - Generation of Data for Pesticide Applications in Horticulture Crops 2018

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using the vegetables, raspberries and blackberries, persimmons, olives, custard apple, lychee, passionfruit, avocado, mango, pineapple, potato, sweet potato and strawberry research and development levy, co-investment from the Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.