

MT17019 – Regulatory Support & Co-ordination

Project Leader & Author: Kevin Bodnaruk, AKC Consulting Pty Ltd

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

DITHIOCARBAMATES

The dithiocarbamate group of fungicides are being re-evaluated in several jurisdictions internationally. Outlined below are outcomes of those reviews in different jurisdictions completed to date.

Canada

Re-evaluations have been completed by the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in 2018 for metiram, thiram, ziram. The review of **mancozeb** is scheduled for completion by June 2020.

Metiram: all uses, other than in potatoes, are being cancelled.

Thiram: all foliar uses on apple, peach, plum, strawberry, celery; sweet potato (sprout root dip); and seed treatment of grasses, dry bulb onion, and alfalfa grown for forage have been cancelled.

Ziram: all uses are being cancelled.

Propineb is not registered for use in Canada.

Europe

Mancozeb: re-authorisation assessment in progress. Completion expected by January 30th, 2020.

Metiram: The re-authorisation assessment completed, with the outcome of non-renewal of approval. The maximum grace period allowed for use to expire on January 30th, 2020.

Propineb: The re-authorisation assessment completed, with the outcome of non-renewal of approval. The maximum grace period allowed for use to expire June 22nd, 2019.

Thiram: The re-authorisation assessment completed with non-renewal of approval. The maximum grace period allowed for use to expire on January 30th, 2020.

Ziram: re-authorisation assessment in progress. Completion expected by April 30th, 2020.

APVMA

The dithiocarbamates have been nominated for review by the APVMA. At this stage no start date has been indicated. It is understood that the intention of the APVMA is to finalise existing chemical reviews before initiating any new re-evaluations. As a result, it is considered unlikely that an Australian review of the group would commence before 2021.

Codex

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues has scheduled a review of the dithiocarbamate group for 2021 by the WHO/FAO Joint Meeting of Experts on Pesticide Residues.

Background

The re-evaluations completed to date of the individual dithiocarbamate fungicides have highlighted several areas of concern, from the perspective of maintaining access. The key issues emerging have related primarily to potential dietary exposure (short-term and long-term), the significance of metabolites and the lack of data, in some cases, to address questions relating to these two points.

From the perspective of estimating dietary exposure, residue trial data needs to be available that not only matches current use patterns but also includes analysis of all compounds of interest (e.g., any metabolites identified and the parent compound). In the event data gaps exist the completion of risk assessments can become problematic which invariably results in the use(s) either being cancelled or significantly amended.

From an Australian perspective, the availability of suitable supporting data is of concern. Given many registrations of the dithiocarbamates products pre-date the creation of the APVMA any data previously supplied, when gaining registration, may not meet contemporary regulatory standards.

To try and clarify the local situation registrants are being contacted on likely availability of suitable data, i.e., is there relevant residue trial data available that will support currently approved use patterns.

CHLORPYRIFOS

USA

The US EPA was proposing to allow continued use while it completed its assessment of the science. This review is scheduled for completion in October 2022. However, following several court cases, most recently in April, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ordered the US EPA to finalise their decision by mid-July.

Independently, several US States, e.g., California, Hawaii and New York, have taken steps to prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos.

Canada

The PMRA is proposing to cancel almost all agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos primarily due to environmental concerns. Only a small number of uses have been deemed acceptable, these are:

- Standing water - temporary pools for larval mosquito control
- Outdoor adult mosquito control
- Structural indoor and outdoor (non-residential)
- Outdoor ornamentals (container stock only) for control of Japanese beetle larvae
- Greenhouse ornamentals

The PMRA consultation on its proposal will close on the 29th of August 2019.

For further information see:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public/consultations/proposed-re-evaluation-decisions/2019/chlorpyrifos/document.html>

Europe

The re-authorisation assessment is currently in progress. Completion expected by January 31st, 2020.

APVMA

It is anticipated that the review of chlorpyrifos will be finalised by the end of 2019.

CHLOROTHALONIL

Canada

The PMRA completed a re-evaluation of chlorothalonil in 2018. It was concluded that continued registration was acceptable with the addition of risk-reduction measures to labels. These included restraints on the number of applications, re-entry periods, changes to personal protection equipment and revised buffer zones.

Europe

The re-authorisation assessment has been completed with the outcome being non-renewal of

approval. The maximum grace period allowing use is to expire May 20th, 2020.

APVMA

Chlorothalonil has been nominated for review by the APVMA with public health, worker and environmental safety cited as reasons for reconsideration. At this stage no start date has been indicated.

DIMETHOATE

Codex

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues has scheduled a review of dimethoate by the WHO/FAO Joint Meeting of Experts on Pesticide Residues for September 2019. Where sufficient Australian trial data was available, Hort Innovations has organised submission to the FAO in order to try and Codex MRLs relevant to several Australian export commodities.

Europe

The EU Commission has recently proposed to not renew the authorisation for dimethoate. At this stage timeframes associated with the withdrawal and any grace periods to allow use of existing products have yet to be determined.

For more information see:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5454>

IMIDACLOPRID

Europe

The EU has moved to cancel all outdoor uses of imidacloprid, due to pollinator concerns. In addition, clothianidin and thiamethoxam have not been re-authorised for use in the EU.

Canada

The PMRA is proposing to cancel foliar application to pome fruit, stone fruit, certain tree nuts and soil application to legume, fruiting vegetables, cucurbit vegetables when grown outdoors; herbs harvested after flowering; small fruit and berries (caneberry; bush berries; low-growing berry; berry and small fruit vine excluding grapes); and ornamentals that are attractive to pollinators and grown outdoors. In addition, there is a significant number of other crops that can't be treated prior to, or during flowering.

For further information see:

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public/consultations/proposed-re-evaluation-decisions/2018/imidacloprid/document.html#_Toc514050951

Acknowledgments This multi-industry project has been funded by Hort Innovation using industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.