

Use of pesticides in agriculture: Information from Health Canada

This document has been prepared by Health Canada to increase awareness of legislative requirements under the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) within the agricultural industry.



In Canada, pest control products, commonly known as pesticides, are regulated at municipal, provincial or territorial and federal levels. The primary objective of the federal [Pest Control Products Act](#) (PCPA) is to prevent unacceptable risks to the human health and the environment from the use of pesticides.

Users of pesticides in agriculture are regulated parties that can be subject to a compliance verification by Health Canada. When a violation is identified as a result of an inspection, sample analysis or verification of records, enforcement actions are taken in accordance with Health Canada's [Compliance and enforcement policy for pesticides](#). Health Canada has a number of enforcement tools at its disposal, including warning letters, compliance orders and administrative monetary penalties up to \$10,000 per violation.

Most relevant legislative requirements

- Unregistered pest control products - PCPA 6 (1):** *"No person shall manufacture, possess, handle, store, transport, import, distribute or use a pest control product that is not registered under this Act, ..."*

Examples of non-compliances: using, possessing or storing unregistered pesticides, including those whose registration has been discontinued, cancelled or not renewed.

- Misuse of pest control products - PCPA 6 (5):** *"No person shall handle, store, transport, use or dispose of a pest control product in a way that is inconsistent with (a) the regulations; or (b) if the product is registered, the directions on the label..."*

Examples of non-compliances: using a pesticide contrary to the label directions, including those related to:

- crops and targeted pests
- application rates, methods and equipment requirements
 - ✓ **Did you know?** Specific requirements are applicable to [use of drones when applying pesticides](#).
- number of applications allowed and intervals requirements
- weather conditions requirements
- personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements
 - ✓ **Did you know?** Different PPE requirements may be specified for mixing, loading, and applying as well as for cleaning up, and repairing equipment that is used.
- buffer zones and vegetative filter strips requirements
- storage requirements
 - ✓ **Did you know?** Pesticides have to be stored in their original container.
- permitted tank mixes

- Activities that endanger health, etc. - PCPA 6 (8):** *No person shall manufacture, possess, handle, store, transport, distribute, use or dispose of a pest control product in a way that endangers human health or safety or the environment.*

Recent regulatory changes

Pesticides are re-evaluated periodically by Health Canada to ensure that they continue to meet health and environmental requirements. Re-evaluation decisions may result in the cancellation of products or product uses. Health Canada may also request changes to a product's label, including adding, removing or changing mitigation measures, use sites and application methods. The following decisions, published since 2018, apply to pesticides commonly used in agriculture.

**Note that this list is not inclusive of all active ingredients used in agriculture. It is the responsibility of the user to follow the most up to date label for all pesticides being used.*

Cancelled products

- [Acephate](#)
 - ✓ ORTHENE 75% (Reg. no 14225)
- [Captan](#): Domestic-class products and products in the form of wettable powder or wettable granules
- [Carbaryl](#): Domestic-class products and products in the form of wettable powder
- [Chlorothalonil](#) Products available in dry flowable or water dispersible granules form
- All [Chlorpyrifos](#) products
- [Dichlorvos](#)
 - ✓ DDVP 20% (Reg. no 23915)
- All [Ferbam](#) products
- [Mancozeb](#): Powder formulations and wettable powder formulations products
- [Metiram](#): Products in the form of wettable granules
- [Pymetrozin](#)
 - ✓ FULFILL 50WG (Reg. no. 27274)
- [Thiophanate-methyl](#)
 - ✓ SENATOR— PSPT 1 (Reg. no 14599)
 - ✓ SENATOR— PSPT (Reg. no 26236)
- [Thiram](#)
 - ✓ ANCHOR (Reg. no. 18788)
 - ✓ GAUCHO CS FL (Reg. no. 27174)
 - ✓ PROSPER FL (Reg. no. 27564)
 - ✓ THIRAM 75 WP (Reg. no. 28220)
 - ✓ GRANUFLO-T (Reg no. 30548)
- All [Ziram](#) products for agricultural uses

Changes were made to label of products containing the following actives

- [Acephate](#)
- [Captan](#)
- [Carbaryl](#)
- [Clothianidin](#)
- [Chlorothalonil](#)
- [Cypermethrin](#)
- [Cyromazine](#)
- [2,4-DB](#)
- [Dichlorvos](#)
- [Ethephon](#)
- [Folpet](#)
- [Imidacloprid \(seed treatments\)](#)
- [Imidacloprid \(agricultural uses\)](#)
- [Iprodione](#)
- [Lamba-cyhalothrin](#)
- [Linuron](#)
- [Methomyl](#)
- [Metiram](#)
- [Naled](#)
- [Phosmet](#)
- [Pymetrozin](#)
- [Fosetyl-Aluminium](#)
- [Tetrachlorvinphos](#)
- [Thiamethoxam](#)
- [Thiophanate-methyl](#)
- [Trinexapac-ethyl](#)
- [Thiram](#)

For information on changes to the label of products containing those active ingredients, consult the available factsheets on [Pesticides compliance and enforcement resources](#) webpage.

Read and follow the label

All pesticides registered in Canada have a Health Canada-approved label with a registration number on the label:

- **Reg. No. 00000 P.C.P. Act**
- **Registration No. 00000 *Pest Control Products Act***

Using a pesticide contrary to label directions is a violation of the PCPA. To find the most up-to-date label of a product, use Health Canada's online [label search tool](#). Labels of pesticides used in agriculture contain information on mitigation measures to which users must adhere, including requirements on:

❖ **Personal protective equipment**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is any clothing or equipment that is worn to minimize pesticide exposure and protect your health. PPE can be as simple as chemical-resistant gloves and footwear worn with a long-sleeved shirt and long pants; or may involve using a respirator and protective suit. For more information, consult the [Personal Protective Equipment](#) and [Pesticide Gloves](#) factsheets.

❖ **Restricted-entry intervals (REI) and re-entry intervals**

- **Restricted entry interval (REI)** is a period of time during which agricultural workers, or anyone else, must not do hand labour in treated areas. For more information, consult the [Understanding Restricted-Entry Intervals for Pesticides](#) factsheet.
- **Re-entry interval** is a time interval that must be respected by anyone before entering a treated area treated. Re-entry intervals may be expressed quantitatively (in hours or days) or qualitatively (e.g. "until residues are dry").

❖ **Preharvest intervals (PHI)**

Preharvest intervals are a minimum amount of time between the last application of a pesticide and when the crop can be harvested to ensure that residues in the treated produce will not exceed the maximum residue limit (MRL). For more information, consult the [Understanding preharvest intervals for pesticides](#) factsheet.

❖ **Drift mitigation**

Spray drifts are airborne movements of droplets or particles of pesticides outside of a target area. Mitigation measures, including spray buffer zones, may be specified on pesticide labels to help reduce drift. For more information, consult the [Management of pesticides spray drift: applicator's summary guide](#) factsheet.

❖ **Vegetative filter strips (VFS)**

A vegetative filter strip (VFS) is a strip of land with permanent vegetation between a cultivated field and the bank of a body of water. For more information, consult the [Vegetative filter strips](#) factsheet.

❖ **Pollinators protection**

Insect pollinators are vital to agricultural production and the environment. For more information on how to prevent harm and protect insect pollinators from pesticide exposure, consult the best management practices on [Protecting pollinators during pesticide spaying](#) and [Protecting pollinators when using treated seed](#).

❖ **Pesticide disposal**

Pesticides need to be disposed of properly to prevent accidents and to protect the environment. Follow the product label instructions, provincial or territorial regulations or refer to your supplier for more information on how to safely dispose of unused products.

Report incidents involving pesticides

A pesticide incident is a negative effect (adverse reaction) to humans (ex. skin rash, headache or nausea), animals (pets or livestock) or the environment that can result from being exposed to a pesticide. To report a pesticide incident, consult Health Canada's [Report a Pesticide Incident](#) webpage.

For more information

Regulatory framework

- **Pest Control Products Act (PCPA):** <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/p-9.01/>
- **Health Canada compliance and enforcement policy for pesticides:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/policies-guidelines/compliance-enforcement-policy-pesticides.html>

The above documents are the official Health Canada documents. In the event of any discrepancy with the contents of this document, they shall prevail.

Pesticide compliance

- **Pesticides compliance and enforcement resources:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-products/pesticides-compliance-enforcement/resources.html>
- **Information note regarding the use of drones when applying pesticides:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/drones-applying-pesticides.html>
- **Search product label:** <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>
- **Protecting Pollinators during Pesticide Spraying – Best Management Practices:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/pollinator-treated-seed/pesticide-spraying.html>
- **Protecting Pollinators when using treated seed – best management practices:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/pollinator-treated-seed/best-management-practices.html>
- **Report a Pesticide Incident:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public/protecting-your-health-environment/report-pesticide-incident.html>

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for the enforcement of the *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)*. For more information on this program, visit: <https://canada.ca/pesticide-compliance> or contact pcp-pcp@hc-sc.gc.ca.

This document is also available in French.