

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PESTICIDE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Moore, DPH, Food Protection Program, (Chair)	Present
Taryn LaScola, MDAR, Designee for Commissioner Randle	Present
Meg Blanchet, DPH, Designee for Commissioner Goldstein	Present
Nicole Keleher, DCR, Designee for Commissioner Arrigo	Present
Richard Berman, Commercial Applicator	Present

The Board did meet or exceed the minimum number (3) of members present to form a quorum and conduct business.

A. REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR January 21, 2025

Motion: R. Berman

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: N. Keleher, M. Moore, T. LaScola, M. Blanchet

Opposed: None

Abstained: R. Berman

B. PRODUCT REGISTRATIONS

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee registers the pesticide products listed on the EIPAS PR February 18, 2025, Subcommittee cover sheet with the exception of the following products:

- Sulfentrazone 39.6% SC (EPA Reg. No. 103591-36-85678)
- 21-0-4 Fertilizer with 0.2% Merit Insecticide and Fortify-N (EPA Reg. No. 101563-76-9198)
- Recognition (EPA Reg. No. 100-1658)

Moved: R. Berman

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, N. Keleher, M. Moore

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined that the use of the following product:

- 21-0-4 Fertilizer with 0.2% Merit Insecticide and Fortify-N (EPA Reg. No. 101563-76-9198), may pose unreasonable adverse effects to the environment as well as to pollinators, when taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of their use in the Commonwealth and are thereby restricted. This is pursuant to the Subcommittee's decision on March 1, 2021 to modify the registration classification of products containing neonicotinoids, including imidacloprid, that have outdoor non-structural uses or outdoor non-agricultural uses on the label from general to state restricted use.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, N. Keleher, M. Moore

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined that the use of the following product:

- Sulfentrazone 39.6% SC, EPA Reg. No. 103591-36-85678, containing sulfentrazone, may cause an unreasonable risk to man or the environment, when taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of their use. This determination is based upon the leaching potential and toxicological concern of these substance as defined in the "Protection of Groundwater Supplies from Non-Point Source Pesticide Contamination" Regulations. Therefore, the Subcommittee hereby modifies the registration classification of agricultural/commercial pesticide products containing sulfentrazone from general to restricted use for groundwater concerns.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, N. Keleher, M. Moore

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

C. NEW ACTIVE INGREDIENT MOTION

Miller presented information on the new active ingredient (AI) trifloxysulfuron-sodium, formulated in the product Recognition, EPA Reg. No. 100-1658. This herbicide controls certain broadleaf, sedge, and grass weeds in turf. Trifloxysulfuron-sodium constitutes about 20.4% of the formulation, which is a water-dispersible granule to be thoroughly mixed in water and then applied as a spray.

The product safety data sheet also reports 50 to 70 percent metcamifen as an inactive ingredient, which has low mammalian toxicity. The pictorial hazard diamond for material safety rates this

overall product as 0, or minimal hazard, for human health and physical hazards, and 1 out of 4 for flammability.

Trifloxysulfuron-sodium is classified as a Group 2 (acetolactate synthase inhibitor, or ALS) herbicide. The mode of action involves inhibiting a plant enzyme by foliar and root absorption that reduces production of branched-chain amino acids and leads to plant death. The compound has been federally registered for over 20 years.

Handling: The Recognition label signal word is 'Caution'. Baseline PPE is required (long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks) for all applicators and agricultural use requirements include coveralls and chemical-resistant gloves. No inhalation equipment is required. The restricted entry interval is 12 hours, which is standard for Als classified as Toxicity Category III or IV for acute dermal, eye, and primary skin irritation.

For non-agricultural uses, the label prohibits treatment of areas with unprotected humans or domestic animals present. Unprotected persons must stay out of treated areas until sprays have dried. Recognition is labeled for use after emergence for control of listed weeds in various established turf grasses grown on golf courses, sod farms, sports fields, and residential lawns. Other sites include airports, cemeteries, and commercial buildings. Users are directed to apply to actively growing weeds during the early stages of development for best results. The product is reportedly rainfast within 3 hours of application.

The label contains several environmental hazard statements. There are standard prohibitions against direct surface water applications and contamination by wash or rinse waters. It also has a groundwater advisory about the possibility of leaching if the water table is shallow or if the soils are permeable. The surface water advisory notes this product has high potential for reaching surface water by runoff. To reduce the potential for runoff and sediment loading, label recommendations are: a level, well-maintained vegetative buffer strip, and avoiding applications when rainfall or irrigation is expected to occur within 48 hours. The label also has drift language to minimize offsite exposures: ground booms are to be no greater than 4 feet off the ground, applications are prohibited when wind speeds exceed 10 miles per hour or there is a temperature inversion, and coarse or medium droplet sizes must be used.

Applications are restricted to no more than 1.95 oz/acre of product at a time, and no more than 6.26 oz/ acre/year. No aerial or irrigation system applications are permitted, and no other crop may be grown in treated areas within a year of last treatment.

Human Health: Toxicity studies show trifloxysulfuron-sodium is categorized as Toxicity Category IV for acute oral and inhalation exposures. Mouse and rat studies all had acute LD50 values >5000 mg/kg body weight. Acute dermal toxicity and primary eye irritation are both Category III. It is not a dermal sensitizer. High levels of acute oral exposure produced effects in the kidney, bladder, liver, lungs, and on overall body weight. The toxicological database also included effects on the testes,

thymus, spleen, and lymph nodes. In neurotoxicity studies, acute exposure at doses above the limit dose resulted in observable effects on motor activity.

EPA has classified trifloxysulfuron-sodium as “not likely to be carcinogenic to humans”. There is no mutagenicity concern for this compound, and it is rapidly absorbed and then excreted within 24 hours.

EPA determined there is human exposure potential in drinking water since application may result in trifloxysulfuron-sodium reaching surface and groundwater. However, EPA conducted a conservative screening level chronic dietary risk estimate that indicated a maximum of 3-11% of the chronic population-adjusted dose for the general US population – thus, below levels of concern.

Environmental Risk: Ecotoxicity data showed trifloxysulfuron-sodium to be practically non-toxic to birds on an acute and subacute basis. Rat and mouse studies indicate low toxicity to terrestrial mammals. Insects also demonstrated no toxicity, with the LD50 for honeybees exceeding the highest dose tested (25 micrograms/bee). EPA will require more pollinator data for future decisions to more fully characterize potential risk to terrestrial invertebrates.

Trifloxysulfuron-sodium is practically non-toxic to both freshwater and estuarine/marine fish and invertebrates on an acute exposure basis, with the exception of mysid shrimp. Like all herbicides, it exhibits significant toxicity to vascular plants, with a risk quotient (RQ) of 15 that exceeds the EPA acute RQ value of 1. However, it is less toxic to nonvascular plants.

Fate/Transport: This compound is relatively soluble in water at neutral pH and significantly less soluble under acidic conditions. It has a low vapor pressure and volatilization is not expected. Hydrolysis is the major route of transformation in the environment. The estimated half-lives of trifloxysulfuron-sodium are 54- 79 days in aerobic soils and 9 to 16 days in water-sediment systems. All sulfonylurea herbicides are very mobile and hydrophilic, though trifloxysulfuron-sodium persistence and mobility in soils are considered moderate for the chemical class and relative to other members already registered in MA.

Groundwater Protection: Trifloxysulfuron-sodium does not meet the criteria for being classified as a potential groundwater contaminant in Massachusetts.

Move: that the Pesticide Board Subcommittee approve the product registrations for Recognition, EPA Reg. No. 100-1658, containing the new active ingredient trifloxysulfuron-sodium, which has never before been registered in Massachusetts.

D. Pesticide Program Updates:

Request for Quote for the rodenticide review: LaScola provided an update on request-for-quote (RFQ) for the rodenticide review. The RFQ will close later today, Feb. 18. The Department will review the bids and provide an update at the next meeting. LaScola suggested that Subcommittee start thinking about public comment on the review and how to best organize that. Moore asked if th

the RFQ was written such that public comment can be considered. LaScola stated that the RFQ was written such that additional items and aspects could be considered.

Inquiry for Additional Information Needed for Glyphosate Review: Wijnja provided an update on the plans for the Glyphosate Individual Review. About a month ago, staff sent out an email to the Subcommittee to inquire about additional information that Subcommittee members may have identified as they reviewed the Glyphosate Commission report. At the Subcommittee meeting in October 2024, it was discussed how to proceed with the Glyphosate Individual Review and members indicated that it was useful to have additional time to review the report. Wijnja used this meeting as an opportunity to check in if members had identified additional information needs. The Subcommittee indicated that feedback on information needs by the next meeting would be a reasonable timeline. Keleher inquired about the timeline for the individual review. Wijnja indicated that staff plans to have the information package available within the next few months. Moore suggested to include a 'Subcommittee Meeting Planning' item on the agenda for the next meeting to evaluate the various upcoming meeting activities in the near future.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Moore noted that the current virtual/remote participation meeting guidance expires at the end of March. Jessica Burgess, MDAR Legal Counsel, indicated that it is uncertain at this time if the existing guidance will be extended. Therefore, legal staff has been making sure that the Department's public bodies have adopted the previous remote participating policy. Burgess noted that the Subcommittee had not adopted such a policy. Therefore, Burgess suggested that the Subcommittee consider that as an option for the next meeting. Moore agreed with that approach. Moore also inquired about updated guidance given that new remote meeting technologies have become available. Burgess indicated that the Department would look into the updated guidance for remote participation and plans to provide information at the next meeting.

F. ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn the December 17, 2024, Subcommittee Meeting.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: M. Blanchet

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, N. Keleher, M. Moore

Opposed: None

Abstained: None