TO: Economic Poison Registrants

SUBJECT: Applications for New Reduced Risk Pesticides, Microbial/Biochemical Pesticides, and Opportunity for Pre-Meetings

In order to encourage the use of pesticides that are expected to pose reduced risk compared to alternative pesticides, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has taken several steps to ensure that new and innovative products can begin the registration review process as soon as possible.

A. Reduced Risk Products Containing New Active Ingredients

DPR will now begin accepting for review those new active ingredient products which have been submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for registration and which the USEPA has determined fit their reduced risk criteria. When submitting requests to DPR, applicants must provide documentation of the USEPA determination. This consideration will only be given to those products which are relevant to California pest management. This is a change in policy to allow certain applications to be submitted to DPR prior to USEPA’s registration of the product. These submissions are not given a special priority, but will be reviewed by DPR in the order received, along with other new active ingredients.

B. Microbial and Biochemical Products Containing New Active Ingredients

A previous change in policy announced in California Notice 93-6, September 7, 1993, allowed new microbial and biochemical products (generally regarded to be reduced risk) to be submitted to DPR at the same time they are submitted to the USEPA for review. These submissions will be reviewed in the order received, along with other new active ingredients.

It is important to note that these changes are not a reduction in any of the data requirements. All required data and information must still be submitted and California registration can not be granted until the USEPA stamped approved label and accompanying letter are received by DPR. This is, however, an opportunity to initiate the California registration review process prior to USEPA’s final approval.

Opportunity for Pre-Meetings

Applicants who are seeking registration for any product containing a new active ingredient are provided the opportunity of meeting with DPR staff prior to submission of the registration request. These meetings can be valuable, particularly if new chemistry or new microorganisms are involved, and can prepare staff for any questions that might arise during the review process.

We hope that these changes will provide incentive for the development of reduced risk products. If you have any questions, please contact Regina Sarracino, Ombudsman, at (916) 324-3939.

Sincerely,

Barry Cortez, Chief
Pesticide Registration Branch
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