

Continuous Evaluation and Reevaluation

Before the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) registers a pesticide, department scientists evaluate the pesticide's toxic effects, its potential exposure to people and the relationship between the two, as well as the potential for environmental problems. Legislation passed in 1969 (Chapter 1169, SB 1140) requires DPR to "eliminate from use" any pesticide that "endangers the agricultural or nonagricultural environment, is not beneficial for the purposes for which it is sold, or is misrepresented." The law also requires the department to have "an orderly program for the continuous evaluation" of pesticides after registration.

Through continuous monitoring and surveillance, DPR can determine the fate of pesticides in the environment, detect and address unforeseen effects on human health and find ways to prevent pesticide contamination.

After registration, several DPR programs evaluate use practices to detect possible problems by:

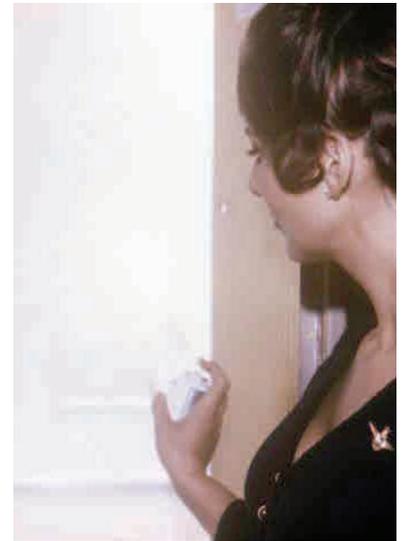
- Completion of risk assessments on registered active ingredients. (See Chapter 5.)
- Exposure monitoring, including exposure and residue studies to collect data on potential exposure patterns and to assess the effectiveness of existing controls. (See Chapter 8 for information on exposure monitoring studies.)
- Investigation and evaluation of pesticide illnesses and incidents. (See Chapter 8 for information on investigations.)
- Investigation of mandatory registrant reports on adverse effects (for example, harm to humans, animals or the environment) that occur after their products are registered. (See *Adverse Effects Reporting in Chapter 3.*)
- Monitoring of air quality, ground water and surface water. (See Chapter 10.)

DPR uses the data collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the department's regulatory programs and assess the need for changes.

REEVALUATION

California regulations require DPR to investigate all reports of actual or potentially significant adverse effects to people or the environment resulting from the use of pesticides. Information may come from pesticide illness investigations, monitoring of air, soil and water; or similar data generated by DPR or other government agencies, or from the public. Toxicology and environmental data, and adverse effects disclosures submitted to DPR by registrants may trigger a reevaluation.

Specific factors that may trigger reevaluation include public or worker health hazard; fish or wildlife hazard; environmental contamination; unwanted damage to plants; inadequate labeling; lack of efficacy; disruption of pest management; availability of an effective and feasible alternative material or procedure which is demonstrably less destructive to the environment; discovery that data on which DPR relied to register a product is false, misleading or incomplete; or other information suggesting a significant adverse risk.



The department shall endeavor to eliminate from use in the state any economic poison which endangers the agricultural or nonagricultural environment, is not beneficial for the purposes for which it is sold, or is misrepresented. In carrying out this responsibility, the department shall develop an orderly program for the continuous evaluation of registered pesticides.

— 1969 legislation (Chapter 1169)

If DPR has reason to believe that a pesticide may cause unreasonable adverse effects to people or the environment, DPR must formally reevaluate the pesticide to decide if it should remain registered and, if so, whether changes in use practices are needed. When a pesticide enters reevaluation, DPR reviews existing data and may require registrants to provide more data.

Legislation in 1997 (Chapter 483, SB 603) gave DPR the authority to cancel the registration or refuse to register any pesticide if the registrant fails to send data requested in a reevaluation. If DPR moves to cancel a registration, the registrant may ask for a hearing.

DPR ends reevaluations in several ways. If the data show that use of the pesticide presents no significant adverse effects, DPR closes the reevaluation without added mitigation measures. If new restrictions are necessary, DPR places controls on the use of the pesticide to mitigate the potential adverse effect. DPR may also work with registrants and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to revise labels to mitigate hazards. If the adverse effect cannot be mitigated, DPR suspends or cancels the product registration.

Regulations require DPR to prepare a semiannual report describing pesticides under reevaluation or for which DPR received factual or scientific information but did not open a reevaluation.

