



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



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Director

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Governor

California Notice 2013-13

TO: PESTICIDE PRODUCT REGISTRANTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

SUBJECT: PESTICIDE RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION UPDATES, DATABASE AND NEW FORMS

This letter provides information about the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Pesticide Registration Branch's efforts over the last two years to implement changes to its research authorization (RA) program to include clarity, transparency, safety, and enforceability.

- DPR modified its RA application form to:
  - Clarify that the authorization does not apply to use of the pesticide on Federal or tribal lands and that use on such lands requires Federal or tribal authorization, and
  - More clearly state all required conditions. Conditions are now listed on a separate form to ensure that the conditions stand out and are not overlooked. This separate page also includes a reminder that "Failure to comply with any of the conditions of this authorization could result in its revocation and an administrative fine up to \$5,000 for each time a condition is violated."
- Current regulations require that researchers provide a notice of intent (NOI) to the local County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) at least 24 hours prior to beginning application of a pesticide under an RA. In order to provide CACs with more time to fully consider local conditions, DPR currently requires researchers, conducting research with fumigants and products containing some new active ingredients, to provide the NOI to the CAC at least 72 hours prior to beginning application.
- In August 2013, DPR completed development of a more robust and accurate RA database. As part of the database redesign project, DPR revised its RA application and experimental pesticide use report forms to add a few *new* data elements. The purpose of the form revision is to facilitate data entry into DPR's newly redesigned RA database.

Phase-out of existing RA forms PR-REG 027 (Rev. 2/12) and PR-REG-028 (Rev. 1/01): Researchers requesting authorization for field trials to be initiated in 2013 and concluded by December 31, 2013 should continue to use DPR's existing Pesticide Research Authorization application form PR-REG-027 (Rev. 2/12) and Experimental Use Report form PR-REG-028 (Rev. 1/01).



#### Implementation Timeframe for *New* RA Forms

Requests for authorization of 2014 research trials must be submitted on the *new* Pesticide Research Application form PR-REG-027a (Est. 12/12) and, if needed, on the *new* Pesticide Research Authorization (Additional Pesticides) form PR-REG-027b (Est. 12/12). DPR will only consider requests to conduct such trials in 2014 when submitted using the *new* application forms [PR-REG-027a,-027b (Est. 12/12)].

In order to accommodate data entry into the appropriate database, if DPR approves a researcher's 2014 research authorization request, prior to January 1, 2014, the researcher will receive provisionary approval for the research. Then in January 2014, DPR will follow up that provisionary approval with the signed approved pesticide research application displaying the number assigned to that research project.

Beginning January 1, 2014, following the final application of a pesticide requiring a research authorization in a particular trial location, and at least 24 hours prior to either harvest or crop destruction, researchers must submit experimental trial reports to the appropriate County Agricultural Commissioner(s) using Experimental Trial Report form, PR-REG-029 (Rev. 12/12).

Within two weeks following the expiration date of the research authorization, a researcher must submit an experimental pesticide use report to DPR using the *new* Experimental Pesticide Use Report PR-REG-028a (Est. 12/12) and, if needed, Experimental Pesticide Use Report (Continued) PR-REG-028b (Est. 12/12).

#### *New* Form Data Elements

DPR's previous research authorization application form [PR-REG-027 (Rev. 2/12)] allowed a researcher to list multiple products. The *new* Pesticide Research Authorization Application Form [PR-REG-027a (Est. 12/12)] only allows for the listing of a single pesticide product test material. If additional research pesticide test materials are to be used, each product must be identified separately using the Pesticide Research Authorization (Additional Pesticides) PR-REG-027b (Est. 12/12). Additionally, if research is intended to be conducted on multiple formulation types and commodities/crop groups, each combination will be listed using the Pesticide Research Authorization (Additional Pesticides) PR-REG-027b (Est. 12/12) form. The use of California registered products (as "standards"), in accordance with label directions, is not considered a research test material and should not be included on any of the research authorization application forms.

The *new* application form also contains a space, not only for the product name, but also for the identification of each active ingredient present in that product. If the researcher substantiates that the chemical to be tested is pre-patent, DPR will use code names to identify the active ingredients in its database, and will maintain the actual active

ingredient names in a confidential file. The *new* form also contains a designated field where DPR is asking researchers to identify the county or counties in which they intend to conduct the research, if known. Any conditions placed by DPR on the research will appear on a separate page, entitled Pesticide Research Authorization Requirements [PR-REG-027c (Est. 12/12)], and attached to the signed approved research authorization application form.

The *new* Experimental Pesticide Use Report Form [PR-REG-028a (Est. 12/12)] provides for more granular level of detail about the research trial. The form requires that each product test material be reported separately by formulation, commodity or site treated, and county. In other words, if a single test material is applied to three different commodities, each test material/commodity combination must be reported separately on the form. The same applies to the county in which the trial was conducted. If trials were conducted in multiple counties, then each test material/county combination must be reported separately. The use report form also identifies the active ingredient(s) in the product test material and requires the researcher calculate the total pounds of active ingredient used in the trial. As stated above, if the chemical is pre-patent, DPR will keep the active ingredient name confidential. Additional information may be submitted on Experimental Pesticide Use Report (Continued) PR-REG-028b (Est. 12/12).

The use of California registered products (as “standards”), used in accordance with label directions, during the course of the research must be reported to the Agricultural Commissioner in the county where trials were conducted on grower/applicator pesticide use reporting forms.

DPR Web Site for Location of Existing RA Forms and New RA Forms

All research authorization forms are available as fillable PDF documents on DPR’s Web site at <[www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/regforms/ra/ramenu.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/regforms/ra/ramenu.htm)>.

Conversion of Existing RAs Granted in 2013 and Set to Conclude in 2014

In January 2014, DPR plans to amend those RA’s with trials approved in 2013 with an expiration date of 2014. DPR will close out its current approval of the research trial effective December 31, 2013 and reissue a new approved RA with a 2014 RA number to use in finishing up the trial(s).

Proposed Training Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation

DPR plans to develop a training presentation, which is expected to be available by December 2013, to assist researchers in filling out the new RA forms.

Contact for Questions

If you have any questions regarding the RA process, please email the RA account at <[RAs@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:RAs@cdpr.ca.gov)> or contact Mr. Don Antonowich of the Pesticide Registration Branch by telephone at 916-445-3686 or email at <[dantonowich@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:dantonowich@cdpr.ca.gov)>. Based on the questions asked, DPR plans to develop a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document which will be posted to DPR's Web site.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

*December 2, 2013*

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Ann M. Prichard  
Chief, Pesticide Registration Branch  
916-324-3931

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Date

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Don Antonowich, DPR Senior Environmental Scientist