



Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

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Chemical Review Committee

Seventh meeting

Rome, 28 March–1 April 2011

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Technical work: review of the proposal for Gramoxone Super as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation

Gramoxone Super

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Additional information collected by the Secretariat from observers

1. In July 2010 the Secretariat received a proposal from Burkina Faso to list in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade a pesticide formulation found to be causing problems under the conditions of use in that country. In line with Article 6 of the Convention, the proposal was verified as meeting the information requirements of part 1 of Annex IV to the Convention and a summary was published in PIC Circular XXXII (12 December 2010).
2. In a letter dated 5 October 2010 the Secretariat invited parties and observers to review the formulation identified in the proposal and to submit any information that they might have available in line with part 2 of Annex IV by 25 November 2010.
3. The Secretariat received replies from five observers: the Berne Declaration, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community/Inter-States Pesticides Committee for Central Africa, the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific, the United States of America's Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization. The information received from these observers includes both formulation-specific information and information pertaining to the active ingredient.
4. The Secretariat has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, a list of the documentation received and the documentation itself as received from the observers mentioned above, without formal editing.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.7/1.

Annex

Information received from observers

Berne Declaration

1. Clinical Toxicology, 43:387–538, 2005;
 - page 496 (Paraquat Exposures: Are Still a Serious Problem in Spain)
 - page 498 (Pesticide Exposures, UK and Ireland April – Sep. 2004—Results of a Surveillance Project) - ATTACHED
2. 1 Br J Ophthalmol, 2002 86: 350-35; D McKeag, R Maini and H R Taylor; The ocular surface toxicity of paraquat - ATTACHED
3. Renal Failure, 29:375–377, 2007; Andreas Soloukides et al; A Fatal Case of Paraquat Poisoning Following Minimal Dermal Exposure - ATTACHED
4. INT J OCCUP ENVIRON HEALTH 2001;7:275–286; CATHARINA WESSELING et al; Paraquat in Developing Countries - ATTACHED
5. Berne Declaration, 2005, Richard Isenring; Paraquat - Unacceptable health risk for users - ATTACHED
6. Occupational and Environmental Exposure of Skin to Chemicals – 2005, abstract 52, 2005; Catharina Wesseling et al; <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/OEESC2/AbPlen52Wesseling.html>
7. International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health 2, 294-304, 1996; van Wendel de Joode BN et al; Paraquat exposure of knapsack applicators - ATTACHED
8. Medical Science Monitor 10(11), CR 622-627, 2004; Bertias GK et al; Review of clinical and toxicological features of acute pesticide poisonings in Crete (Greece) - ATTACHED
9. Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), Intoxicaciones por plaguicidas en Costa Rica: Informe epidemiológico 2001; 2002 [Focussed summary in English, document in Spanish] - ATTACHED
10. Berne Declaration, May 2007, Barbara Dinham; Pesticide users at Risk (esp. annex 2); http://www.evb.ch/cm_data/Paraquat-Code_Survey_FINAL_rev1.pdf
11. Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Germany, November 2008; Field Guide: How to Live and Work Without Paraquat: http://www.oisat.org/downloads/field_guide_without_paraquat.pdf
12. Information on Bans, Restrictions etc. in different countries could be found at : <http://www.evb.ch/en/p5787.html>

Central African Economic and Monetary Community/Inter-States Pesticides Committee for Central Africa (CPAC)

1. Informations à fournir et critères à respecter pour l’inscription des formulations pesticides extrêmement dangereuses a l’annexe III

Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific

1. Paraquat monograph PANAP 2010

United States of America: Environmental Protection Agency

1. Sample paraquat product labels
2. Information about EPA's pesticide product label review: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/product-labels.htm>
3. Pesticide Product Label System (PPLS) which includes images all product labels approved by EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pestlabels/>
4. Description of Reports from the Incident Data System
5. Specified Chemical Incidents - Paraquat
6. Specified Chemical Incidents - Paraquat dichloride
7. Aggregate Summary Report of Incidents For Registered Products Containing a Specified Active Ingredient: Description of Report
8. Aggregate Incident Summary 061601 packages
9. Aggregate Incident Summary 061601 products
10. Aggregate Incident Summary 061603 packages
11. Aggregate Incident Summary 061603 products

World Health Organization

1. The **WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard** (2009) lists technical grade paraquat in CLASS II (Moderately Hazardous), based on the acute oral LD50 value of 150 mg/kg bodyweight. Class II is the third most hazardous class in the WHO Classification scheme. This publication also indicates the following note with respect to paraquat:- "*Paraquat has serious delayed effects if absorbed. It is of relatively low hazard in normal use but may be fatal if the concentrated product is taken by mouth or spread on the skin*". The publication contains a classification scheme to allow the classification for a paraquat formulation to be calculated. More details regarding this publication can be found at http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/index.html
 2. WHO (in cooperation with the International Labour Office and the European Union) publishes **International Chemical Safety Cards** (ICSCs) to provide essential health and safety information on chemicals for occupational settings. ICSC No. 0005 provides health and safety information on Paraquat Dichloride, including symptoms and health effects (acute, short term and long term) from exposure via skin, inhalation and ingestion. Information on physico-chemical properties is provided. ICSC 0005 also shows Occupational Exposure Limits which have been established by other organizations. ICSC 0005 can be found at <http://www.inchem.org/documents/icsc/icsc/eics0005.htm>
 3. WHO (through the International Programme on Chemical Safety) publishes Poisons Information Monographs to help manage cases of chemical poisoning. Poisons Information Monograph No.399 provides information on poisoning from paraquat formulations via various exposure routes (ingestion, inhalation, eye, skin). The PIM can be found at <http://www.inchem.org/documents/pims/chemical/pim399.htm>
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