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Sent: Monday, July 05, 2004 12:35 PM
Subject: MCPA Preliminary Risk Documents Released for Comment

Action: EPA has announced the release for public comment the preliminary human health and ecological risk assessments and related documents for the pesticide 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy acetic acid (MCPA). These risk assessment will be used in determining the reregistration eligibility of MCPA that will be subsequently documented in a Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED). Public comments on the risk assessment documents must be received on or before August 23, 2004. See edocket @ <http://docket.epa.gov/edkpub/index.jsp> for MCPA for the assessments

Background: MCPA is a phenoxy herbicide, typically used in formulation with other phenoxy class chemicals, such as 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, MCPP-p, and MCPB. MCPA is a phenoxy herbicide registered for use on alfalfa, barley, clover, flax, lespedeza, oats, pasture and rangeland grass, peas, rice, rye, sorghum, trefoil, triticale, and wheat, as well as grass grown for seed, to control a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds.

Further, MCPA is also registered for use on turf, lawns, vines, rights-of-way, and forestry applications. MCPA is registered for use by homeowners in the **residential environment to kill weeds on lawns**. One of the more typical formulations of MCPA is '**weed and feed**', commonly used to control 'dicot' weeds (broad leaved weeds) in 'monocot' crops. It is also used by professional lawn care operators on residential lawns.

Names include: Agroxone , Anicon kombi , Anicon M , B-Selektionon M , BH MCPA , Bordermaster , Cekherbex , Chiptox , Chwastox , CMP Acetate , Cornox-M , Ded-Weed , Dicopur-M , Dikotex , Emcepan , Empal , Hedapur M 52 , Hedarex M , Hedonal , Hedonal M , Herbicide M , Hormotuho , Kilsem , Krezone , Leuna M , Linormone , M 40 , Mephanac , Metaxon , Methoxone ((4-Chloro-2-methylphenoxy)acetic acid) (MCPA) , Phenoxyline Plus , Rhomene , Rhonox , Shamrox , U 46 M-Fluid 4 , Vacate , Weed-Rhap , Weedar , Weedone , and Zelan.

MCPA can be applied in various forms (free acids, esters or salts), but it releases a single common moiety that is the pesticidally active component and serves as the basis for tolerance regulation. Specifically, there are four active ingredients associated with MCPA: MCPA acid, MCPA sodium salt, MCPA dimethylamine salt (MCPA DMAS), and MCPA 2-ethylhexyl ester (MCPA 2-EHE).

EPA does not have, at this time, available data to determine whether MCPA has a common mechanism of toxicity with other substances. The risk assessments identified post application exposures of concern for toddlers and adults performing heavy yardwork on turf , application exposures of concern for the homeowner hose-end sprayer, and occupational exposures for right of way applications.

The risk assessments identify several data gaps that must be addressed prior to EPA issuing a Reregistration Eligibility Decision document in *both 'Human Health Data' and 'Ecological and Environmental Fate Requirements'* for MCPA; gaps include Toxicology, Residue Chemistry, Environmental Fate, and Ecological Effects. This **data is necessary quantify risks so that adequate risk mitigation measures can be prescribed in the pending RED**. Comments received regarding the preliminary risk assessments will help EPA determine whether MCPA presents risks that require mitigation.

Please note that assessments for MCPA are preliminary and that further refinements may be made. Risk assessments reflect only the work and analysis conducted at the time they were produced. As new information becomes available, the conclusions they contain may change.

Sources: [Federal Register: June 23, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 120)] [Notices] [Page 35017-35019] <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-PEST/2004/June/Day-23/p14093.htm>. MCPA Risk Assessments Available for Public Comment @ http://www.epa.gov/oppfod01/cb/csb_page/updates/mcpa.htm. See 'Overview of MCPA Risk Assessment' in edocket @ <http://docket.epa.gov/edkpub/index.jsp> for MCPA.

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