

INDUSTRY TASK FORCE II ON 2,4-D RESEARCH DATA

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Issue Background

AUSTRALIAN REGULATOR PROPOSES REGULATORY CHANGES FOR 2,4-D SHORT CHAIN ESTER FORMS

The Australian pesticide regulatory agency has released for public discussion an environmental assessment that proposes the withdrawal of short chain 2,4-D ester formulations.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (AVPMA) has proposed that agricultural chemicals containing short-chain (high volatile) forms of 2,4-D be withdrawn because of the unacceptable risks they pose in relation to off-target (spray drift) damage to the environment and sensitive crops.

Short chain ester forms of 2,4-D have not been registered or available for use in North America and Europe for some 20 years and consequently the Industry Taskforce II on 2,4-D Research Data did not generate the contemporary data that would have been required for the continued use of short chain esters. Should this proposal be fully adopted it will bring Australia into line with these countries.

The AVPMA proposal contains the preliminary environmental risk assessment of all forms of 2,4-D, and refined environmental risk assessment and proposed regulatory action for the short chain esters only; (i.e., ethyl ester, butyl ester and isobutyl ester forms.)

AVPMA re-evaluation results of other 2,4-D acid, amine and low volatile ester forms with respect to environmental impact is expected later this year. Toxicological and occupational health and safety evaluations are expected in early 2007. Reregistration of products containing these remaining eight forms is fully expected due to the wealth of data available and will be in parallel with recent evaluations in North America and European Union where 2,4-D has been reregistered for continued use.

About the Task Force

The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data is organized to provide funding for some 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) research studies required to respond to the USA EPA reregistration and Canadian PMRA re-evaluation programs. The 2,4-D Task Force is comprised of those companies owning the technical registrations on the active ingredient in 2,4-D herbicides. They are Dow AgroSciences (U.S.), Nufarm, Ltd. (Australia) and Agro-Gor Corp., a U.S. corporation jointly owned by Atanor, S.A. (Argentina) and PBI Gordon Corp. (U.S.).