

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

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PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY ISSUES CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF 2,4-D*

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada issued its re-evaluation of the Agriculture, Forestry, Aquatic and Industrial Site uses of 2,4-D. In doing so, the PMRA is proposing that the continued use of 2,4-D for the aforementioned terrestrial sites is acceptable. The PMRA's science-based assessment is available at:

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/pacr/pacr2007-06-e.pdf>

The PMRA is proposing a number of changes that may be of concern to agricultural or other user groups. Specifically, there are proposals for buffer zones and re-entry that may have operational or economic impact on various commodity groups. All parties that have an interest in this matter should carefully examine the PACR and provide feedback to the PMRA during the 60 day comment period (due by August 18, 2007). Comments may be sent to the agency at: pmra_publications@hc-sc.gc.ca

This scientific assessment builds on comments that were received from the public for the [Lawn and Turf Uses of 2,4-D](#), released in February, 2005. The PMRA will make a final decision on lawn and turf uses after comments regarding non-turf uses have been considered.

In considering human health risk, the PMRA's rigorous assessment included a review of animal and human data, the latter in the form of epidemiology studies (the study of the incidence of disease in populations). The PACR states, "The inconsistent epidemiological associations, the recognition that there are many other factors that may have contributed to the weakly positive associations and the fact that the animal studies designed to show causality were consistently negative have lead the PMRA scientists to concur that on the basis of all available and relevant data, 2,4-D cannot be classified as to its human carcinogenicity."

In releasing this most recent assessment, the PMRA has again – the third time in three years – stated that 2,4-D is acceptable for use in Canada when label directions are followed.

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 EPA re-registration and PMRA pesticide 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.).

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* 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid