

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

Information Line: 1-800-345-5109
Fax: 252-393-6327

2,4-D Web Page www.24d.org
e-mail: donpage@24d.org

NEWS RELEASE

REGULATORY RULINGS AND EXPERT PANEL REVIEWS CLEAR THE PESTICIDE 2,4-D

Swansboro, NC, April 23 – In responding to the report released by the Ontario College of Family Physicians today, the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data today reminds the medical community that several recent regulatory rulings and expert panel reviews clear the pesticide 2,4-D.

Since 1986, more than a dozen government and independent expert panels, including the Canadian Centre for Toxicology review conducted for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, World Health Organization and European Commission, have concluded that 2,4-D does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health when used according to label instructions.

“The decisions of several regulatory agencies and expert panel reviews simply do not support the allegations that 2,4-D causes cancer or poses a risk to human health”, stated Donald Page, Executive Director of the Task Force. “As recently as last December, the New Zealand Environmental Risk Management Authority published their finding that determined that 2,4-D is not a carcinogen.”

To illustrate just one glaring mistake, on page 2 the report claims that 2,4-D was developed “to eradicate the Japanese rice crop” during World War II. The fact is, around the world 2,4-D is widely used to protect rice from yield destroying invasive weeds. To this day, Japanese rice growers use the product extensively.

“What is most interesting about this latest report by the Ontario College of Family Physicians is that it completely ignores the decisions of authorities like the World Health Organization and recent studies by the U.S. National Cancer Institute”, added Page. “Where we do find common ground is the need to improve our understanding of the actual exposure of children and other bystanders to domestic use pesticides.”

Research undertaken in 1991 for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment by the Canadian Centre for Toxicology at the University of Guelph found that there is no exposure to bystanders. The researchers concluded: “Most risks associated with occupational or bystander exposure to 2,4-D are low, especially when compared to other risks taken in life.”

About 2,4-D

Since being first registered in Canada in 1946, the herbicide 2,4-D has become the most widely used agricultural herbicide in this country and worldwide. It is used on many crops that are an important element of an individual's diet such as wheat, barley, rice, soybeans, potatoes, and pome, stone and citrus fruits. It is also a component of herbicides used by lawn care professionals and homeowners to protect turf grass from weeds.

Since 1986, more than a dozen government and expert panels, including the Canadian Centre for Toxicology review conducted for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, World Health Organization, European Commission, Harvard University School of Public Health, University of Michigan School of Public Health, have concluded that 2,4-D does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment when used according to label instructions.

About the Task Force

The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data is organized under U.S. pesticide law to provide funding for some 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) research studies required to respond to the Canadian and U.S. pesticide re-evaluation programs. The 2,4-D Task Force is made up of those companies owning the technical Canadian and U.S. 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.).

Additional information may be obtained toll-free: 1-800-345-5109, www.24d.org or email: donpage@24d.org.