

# Paraquat Dichloride Registration Review

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MARCH 9, 2021



# 2016 Mitigation Decision

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In 2016, EPA amended paraquat registrations to impose several additional restrictions to labels intended to prevent accidental ingestion incidents:

- Paraquat is to be used by certified applicators only – NOT to be used by uncertified persons working under the supervision of a certified applicator
- Enhanced label warning statements
- Specialized training for all paraquat users
- Closed transfer system requirements for all non-bulk paraquat products (smaller than 120 gallons)

All requirements should have been implemented on labels by December 30, 2020.

# 2016 Mitigation Decision: Truck drivers transporting paraquat

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2016 Human Health Mitigation Decision restricted paraquat use to certified applicators only, prohibiting use by uncertified individuals working under the supervision of a certified applicator.

This requirement is on current labels, and applies to truck drivers moving paraquat because transportation in many situations falls under the FIFRA definition of “use.”

In response to stakeholder concerns raised in early 2020 about the application of this requirement to truck drivers, OPP proposed adding language to the RUP statement to allow truck drivers who are not certified applicators to transport containers of paraquat, provided certain conditions are met.

These changes (if finalized) will not go into effect until the Interim Decision is published and paraquat product labels are revised 1-2 years later (likely in 2023). Current labels do require that truck drivers transporting open containers of paraquat be certified applicators.

# Proposed Mitigation

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1. Prohibit aerial application for all use sites except cotton desiccation
2. Require a residential area drift buffer for cotton desiccation by aerial application
3. Limit maximum application rate for alfalfa to 1.0 lb a.i./A
4. Require enclosed cabs if area treated in 24-hr period is more than 80 acres
5. Require PF10 respirator or enclosed cab if area treated in 24-hr period is 80 acres or less
6. Prohibit mechanically pressurized handguns and backpack sprayers
7. Require 48-hr REI for all crop uses except for cotton desiccation
8. Require 7-day REI for cotton desiccation
9. Require mandatory spray drift management

# Current Status

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Proposed Interim Decision for paraquat was released for public comment on October 23, 2020.

Comment period was extended by 20 days and closed on January 11, 2021.

OPP is evaluating the comments received on the PID.

Interim Decision for paraquat is expected to be completed by end of 2021.