

SFIREG OPP Updates

December 2021

September 15, 2021: EPA to Sunset Temporary Disinfectant Supply Chain Flexibilities

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-sunset-temporary-disinfectant-supply-chain-flexibilities>

In 2020, EPA introduced regulatory flexibilities to ensure that critical antimicrobial products remained available as the country responded to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As supply chains have stabilized and [disinfectant products expected to kill SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19) have become consistently available to consumers, the agency has determined that this flexibility is no longer needed.

EPA will terminate the Temporary Amendment to Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice 98-10, effective September 15, 2022.

September 29, 2021: Updates on EPA Efforts to Address PFAS in Pesticide Packaging

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/updates-epa-efforts-address-pfas-pesticide-packaging>

EPA continues to work diligently to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment and is providing important updates on its progress in testing pesticide products and containers for PFAS.

EPA has released an internally validated method for the detection of 28 PFAS compounds in oily matrices, such as pesticide products formulated in oil, petroleum distillates, or mineral oils.

The new method is intended to help pesticide manufacturers, state regulators, and other interested stakeholders test oily matrix products for PFAS and join the effort in uncovering any possible contamination.

October 8, 2021: EPA Holds Online Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting in October

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-holds-online-pesticide-program-dialogue-committee-meeting-october-0>

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs held an online public meeting of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee on October 27-28, 2021.

October 15, 2021: EPA Revises Guidance to Ensure Effectiveness of Antimicrobial Pesticides Against *Candida auris*

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-revises-guidance-ensure-effectiveness-antimicrobial-pesticides-against-candida-auris>

EPA has revised its guidance for evaluating the efficacy of antimicrobial pesticides against *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), an emerging, multidrug-resistant yeast. Pesticide manufacturers seeking to register their products with a *C. auris* claim should use this updated guidance to test the effectiveness of the products against a drug-resistant strain of *C. auris* (AR Bank #0385).

Existing antimicrobial products with *C. auris* claims based on the previous strain (AR Bank #0381) will be allowed to retain their claims.

October 21, 2021: EPA Provides an Update on Pesticide Applicator Certification Plan Approvals

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-provides-update-pesticide-applicator-certification-plan-approvals>

EPA is providing an update on efforts to finalize review of submitted state, territory, tribal and federal agency certification programs for applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs).

The [2017 Certification of Pesticide Applicators final rule](#) set stronger standards for people who apply RUPs and required that states, territories, tribes and federal agencies with existing certification plans submit proposed modifications by March 4, 2020 to comply with the updated federal standards. As specified in the rule, existing certification plans remain in effect until EPA completes its reviews and approves the proposed plan modifications, or until those plans otherwise expire on March 4, 2022, whichever is earlier.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the need for careful review of program-specific issues and questions, EPA is developing a rule that would extend the date by which plans must be approved and ensure existing plans can remain in place during this time-limited extension.

October 22, 2021: EPA Takes Action to Prevent Ecological Risks from Two Herbicides

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-action-prevent-ecological-risks-two-herbicides>

EPA is releasing the interim registration review decisions (IDs) for the pesticides aminopyralid and picloram, finalizing stronger measures to help prevent residues from contaminating compost and damaging non-target plants in sites where compost is applied.

For many years, EPA has been engaging with stakeholders to identify effective measures to prevent damage to non-target plants where compost is applied. EPA is now requiring mitigation measures to reduce the potential for residues of these herbicides in compost.

[Additional information on the pyridine and pyrimidine herbicides and interim decisions is available on EPA's website.](#)

October 29, 2021: EPA Updates the Environmental Chemistry Methods Index for Monitoring Pesticide Residues

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-updates-environmental-chemistry-methods-index-monitoring-pesticide-residues>

EPA has updated the [Environmental Chemistry Methods \(ECM\) Index](#), a list which currently includes 865 analytical methods for monitoring pesticide residues, primarily in soil or water. In the past year, 65 new analytical methods have been added to the ECM Index, including six methods for newly-registered pesticides.

Comparing concentrations of a pesticide in water using ECMs to [Aquatic Life Benchmarks](#) can be helpful in interpreting monitoring data and in identifying and prioritizing monitoring sites for further investigation. State, tribal, and local governments as well as international regulatory authorities and researchers may use these ECMs in their work.

November 3, 2021: Federal Interagency Working Group Reconvened to Improve Protections for Endangered Species and Enhance Transparency

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/federal-interagency-working-group-reconvened-improve-protections-endangered-species>

EPA, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and Department of the Interior are reaffirming their commitment to working together and with stakeholders to protect endangered species, provide effective pest control tools, and regulate pesticide use in a fair, transparent, and predictable manner.

All five agencies met as part of the Interagency Working Group created under the 2018 Farm Bill to discuss improvements to the Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation process for pesticide registration and registration review. The group's first meeting under the Biden-Harris Administration resulted in specific commitments to improve the pesticide consultation process for endangered species and engaging stakeholders, including by capitalizing on the strong interest among stakeholders for a workable process.

November 12, 2021: EPA Releases Final Biological Evaluations for Glyphosate, Atrazine, and Simazine

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-final-biological-evaluations-glyphosate-atrazine-and-simazine>

After consideration of public comments, EPA has finalized its biological evaluations (BEs) for glyphosate, atrazine, and simazine, three herbicides that are used to control a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. EPA has also released a summary document of comments received on the draft BEs and EPA's responses. The BEs find that all of these chemicals may affect, and are likely to adversely affect, certain listed species or their designated critical habitats.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service will use the information in EPA's final BEs for these three herbicides to develop their biological opinions (BiOps), in which they will determine whether a pesticide is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species and whether there will be adverse modification to its designated critical habitat. If jeopardy or adverse modification is determined, the Services, with input from EPA and the registrants, will propose additional protections.

Read the final biological evaluations for [glyphosate](#), [atrazine](#), and [simazine](#) on EPA's website. To learn more about these BEs, see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Read the [response to comments document](#).

November 19, 2021: EPA Extends Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance for COVID-19

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-extends-emerging-viral-pathogens-guidance-covid-19>

EPA recognizes that public health concerns due to COVID-19 are ongoing and therefore is indefinitely extending COVID-19 activation of the emerging viral pathogens (EVP) guidance for antimicrobial pesticides. EPA's EVP guidance for antimicrobial pesticides is a part of the federal government's pandemic preparedness, allowing manufacturers to provide the Agency with data, even in advance of an outbreak, demonstrating that their products are effective against hard-to-kill viruses.

EPA activated its EVP guidance for antimicrobial pesticides for the first time in January 2020, in response to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in the United States. For more than 12 months, the Agency allowed for expedited review and approval of surface disinfectant products for use against SARS-CoV-2, including accelerated review for products seeking to add EVP claims to product labels.

EPA will now provide a notification at least six months before inactivating the EVP guidance for SARS-CoV-2.

December 1, 2021: EPA Publishes Memorandum Containing Revised Framework and Response to Comments to Improve Pest Resistance for Plant-Incorporated Protectants

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-publishes-memorandum-containing-revised-framework-and-response-comments-improve-pest>

EPA published a memorandum addressing resistance risks to lepidopteran pests of corn and cotton containing the *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) Plant-Incorporated Protectant (PIP). Since commercialization of Bt PIPs, some species of lepidopteran pests of corn and cotton have developed resistance to certain Bt toxins.

In 2018, EPA hosted a Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) to help pesticide registrants better detect and manage arising resistance cases. In 2020, utilizing many of the recommendations from SAP experts, EPA released a draft framework for pest resistance management for public comment.

The memorandum released today includes EPA's response to comments received during the 2020 comment period and a revised framework for pest resistance management that incorporates stakeholder feedback. [View the memorandum.](#) [Learn more about Bt PIPs and pest resistance management strategies.](#)