

Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Update

**SFIREG EQI and POM
September 18, 2023**

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**





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Pesticide News Story Updates





OPP Updates

August 3: EPA Seeks Public Comments to Ensure Information on Bilingual (Spanish) Pesticide Labels Reaches the Hands of America's Farmworkers

- EPA sought public comments on how to make bilingual pesticide labeling accessible to farmworkers.
- As part of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022, safety and health portions of pesticide product labels are required to be translated into Spanish.
- [Pesticide Registration Improvement Act Bilingual Labeling Requirements: Making Bilingual Pesticide Labeling Accessible to Farmworkers](#) is posted in public docket EPA–HQ–OPP–2023–0270.
- The comment period closed on Monday, August 21, 2023.



OPP Updates

August 4: EPA Posts Resources on Rule to Accelerate Use of Plant-Incorporated Biotechnologies to Protect Against Pests

- (EPA) is providing resources to help biotechnology developers exercise the full benefits of the exemptions available under the Plant Incorporated Protectants (PIPs) exemption rule. These resources are available on EPA's public website, <https://www.epa.gov/regulation-biotechnology-under-tsca-and-fifra/pesticides-exemptions-certain-plant-incorporated-0> and include the following:
 - Fact sheet and background information on PIPs rule
 - Examples of genetic modifications that are exempt under the rule
 - Description of how to submit a self-determination or a request for EPA confirmation of exemption under the rule
 - Sample documents for submitting a self-determination or request for confirmation
 - The [PIPs Exemption Final Rule](#) went into effect on July 31, 2023.



OPP Updates

August 9: Upcoming Environmental Modeling Public Meeting

- On October 10th, EPA will hold an Environmental Modeling Public Meeting (EMPM) to discuss current issues related to modeling pesticide fate, transport, and exposure for pesticide ecological risk assessments in a regulatory context.
- This public forum for pesticide registrants, other stakeholders, and EPA will allow for participation in-person, and via phone and webcast.
- The 2023 EMPM will provide a forum for presentations and discussions on surface water and groundwater modeling and endangered species assessment modeling.
- EPA will present information on updated Pesticide in Water Calculator surface water and groundwater scenarios, including the recent development of spatially diverse groundwater scenarios.
- EPA will also provide updates on modeling approaches to support endangered species assessments and evaluation of mitigation measures including EPA's Plant Assessment Tool (PAT) and Vegetative Filter Strip Modeling System (VFSSMod).
- Requests to attend the meeting must be submitted on or before October 3, 2023. Requests to present with an accompanying abstract must be submitted on or before September 1, 2023.
- Please contact Jessica Joyce and William Gardner (OPP_EMPM@epa.gov) to register for or request to present at this meeting.



OPP Updates

August 23: EPA Announces the Implementation of Mitigation Measures for Insecticide Malathion to Protect Endangered Species

- EPA is taking action to protect endangered and threatened species by implementing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) nationwide final biological opinion (BiOp) for the insecticide malathion.
- The malathion BiOp is the first nationwide BiOp issued by FWS to cover all registered uses of a pesticide across the United States and its territories.
- Its implementation represents the final stage in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation for malathion and is the culmination of a collaborative process over more than seven years involving EPA, FWS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pesticide registrants and other stakeholders.
- EPA is implementing this BiOp by issuing Endangered Species Protection Bulletins, available on the Bulletins Live! Two website, and approving malathion label amendments to incorporate measures to protect listed species.



OPP Updates

August 24: EPA Registers New Active Ingredient Pyraclonil

- EPA registered two pesticide products containing the new active ingredient pyraclonil to control weeds in water-seeded rice in California.
- EPA's registration decision includes measures to protect non-target organisms, including federally threatened and endangered (listed) species and their designated critical habitats.
- In addition to the registration decision, EPA has finalized the biological evaluation for this pesticide under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- This action furthers the goals outlined in EPA's April 2022 ESA Workplan by identifying potential effects to listed species, implementing necessary mitigation, and initiating the consultation process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) prior to registration.



OPP Updates

August 29: EPA Releases Final Guidance and Methods to Control Public Health Pathogens on Soft Surface Textiles

- EPA released the final guidance and methods for evaluating efficacy claims of antimicrobial products registered to reduce bacteria and viruses on soft surface textiles in clinical and institutional (non-residential) settings.
- The final guidance to support soft surface textile claims, the soft surface textile bacterial method, and the soft surface textile virus method supersede the interim guidance and methods, which EPA published on December 21, 2022.
- The Agency has also published its response to comments received on the interim guidance and methods.
- The final test methods, guidance, and response to comments document are available at docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0337](#) at [regulations.gov](#).
- The final test methods and guidance are also available on EPA's Microbiology Laboratory [Antimicrobial Testing Methods and Procedures webpage](#) and EPA's [Efficacy Requirements for Antimicrobial Pesticides webpage](#).



OPP Updates

August 30: EPA Publishes Updated Risk Assessments for Chemical Acephate

- EPA released a revised human health draft risk assessment (HH DRA) and refined drinking water assessment (DWA) for acephate, an organophosphate pesticide (OP) that is registered for both agricultural and non-agricultural uses.
- The acephate HH DRA includes an assessment of methamidophos, which is also an OP compound that is formed when acephate is metabolized.
- The revised HH DRA showed significant dietary risks of concern from drinking water for registered uses of acephate, including non-agricultural uses.
- EPA also identified dietary risks of concern when only the two highest agricultural usage sites (measured by pounds sold), cotton and soybean, are considered.
- The revised HH DRA includes additional information on dietary risk, as well as risk identified for occupational handlers and post-application scenarios, non-occupational bystanders, and residential exposures.
- The revised HH DRA reflects numerous updates since the previous risk assessment, including reevaluation of the Food Quality Protection Act safety factor (FQPA SF), which is intended to provide an additional 10X margin of safety to account for any additional risk to pregnant women and children, but which can be reduced or removed if a scientific determination is made that no such additional risk exists.



OPP Updates

August 31: EPA Updates Aquatic Life Benchmarks for Registered Conventional Pesticides and Antimicrobial Chemicals

- EPA in collaboration with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the U.S. Geological Survey, has released an updated version of the Aquatic Life Benchmarks.
- These benchmarks are estimates of the concentrations below which pesticides (including conventional pesticides and antimicrobial chemicals) are not expected to present a risk of concern for freshwater organisms.
- The updated Aquatic Life Benchmarks represent 773 chemicals (parent compounds and degradates) including newly registered pesticides or new values for previously registered pesticides and selected degradates.



OPP Updates - Upcoming

- EPA will announce final guidance to improve the efficiency of EPA's Endangered Species Act (ESA) analyses for new pesticide active ingredient applications and active ingredients undergoing registration review.
- EPA will announce proposed guidance for ESA and new uses.
- EDSP Framework



OPP Updates - Upcoming

EPA Awards Cooperative Agreement to Support Pesticide Safety Education Programs

- EPA will announce the award of a cooperative agreement, of up to \$15 million over five years.



OPP Updates - Upcoming

- Antibacterial and Antifungal Resistance Framework Concept Note
- Revised Cyantraniliprole Labels
- Revised Draft Risk Assessment and Decision Update for Tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP) Proposed Interim Decision



Questions & Answers