
Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program Update

AAPCO's 78th Annual Meeting
March 2nd-5th, 2025
Annie-France Gravel



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Canada

Presentation Overview

- Pesticides regulation in Canada
- Pesticide Compliance Program Overview
- Recent Results
- Current Priorities
- Highlights on:
 - Evolving approaches to preventing illegal pesticides in Canada
 - Compliance promotion
- Concluding Remarks

Pesticide Regulation in Canada: Shared Responsibilities

Federal	Provincial/Territorial	Municipal
<p>Health Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department responsible for administration of the <i>Pest Control Products Act</i> (PCPA) and its <i>Regulations</i>. New pesticide and pesticide use registration, and post market through science-based health, environment and value assessments. Regulates pesticide-related activities: manufacturing, importation, distribution (advertising and sale), transportation, storage, possession, and use under the PCPA. <p>Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates the flow of legitimate travellers and trade. Enforces more than 100 acts and regulations, including the PCPA. 	<p>Environment Ministries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation, sale, use, storage and disposal. Training, certification, licensing of applicators and vendors. Spills, accidents and disposal. <p>Agriculture Ministries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to agricultural productivity and growers. Promote compliance related to pesticide use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-laws for further conditions (e.g. restrictions) on use or sales where authority exists and in accordance with federal standards.

Regulating Pesticides – Within Health Canada

A shared responsibility between two Health Canada branches

➤ Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)

- Responsible for evaluating and registering pesticides under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*.
- PMRA applies current, evidence-based scientific approaches to assess whether the health and environmental risks of pesticides proposed for registration are acceptable, and if the products have value.
- Re-evaluation of registered pesticides ensure that they continue to have acceptable risk to human health and the environment and have acceptable value.

➤ Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB)

Health Canada's compliance and enforcement lead Branch that informs and protects Canadians from health risks associated with products, substances, and their environment.

- Compliance promotion, compliance verification and enforcement activities related to the *Pest Control Products Act*.
 - Including C&E Program development functions for risk-based, nationally consistent delivery: Quality management system, IT systems, Inspector designation/training/safety, data analytics.
- C&E perspective into regulatory and policy development.
- C&E regulatory cooperation.

Pesticide Compliance Program Overview

Mandate

The Pesticide Compliance Program is responsible for promoting, verifying and enforcing compliance with the *Pest Control Products Act* and its Regulations of those sectors that manufacture, sell, distribute, import or use pesticides in Canada.

Main Objectives

- To prevent unauthorized pesticides from being available on the Canadian market.
- To see that authorized pesticides are imported, manufactured, distributed and used in accordance with the conditions established by Health Canada.

Core Activities

Using a risk-based approach and guided by principles of fairness, consistency and impartiality:

- Conducts compliance promotion activities.
- Verifies compliance proactively/reactively of registrants, importers, distributors, users.
- Takes enforcement action to address non-compliance and associated risks.

The Regulated Community under the *Pest Control Products Act*

Regulated Parties	Approximate Number
Registrants	700
Marketplace (Retailers and Distributors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic pesticide vendors (brick & mortar stores) Licensed commercial vendors Third party selling platforms 	45,000 6,455
Agricultural Users	Over 190,000
Non-Agricultural Users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Professional Pesticide Applicators Industrial users 	42,000
Importers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial and private citizens 	Over 100,000 import transactions every year

Recent Results

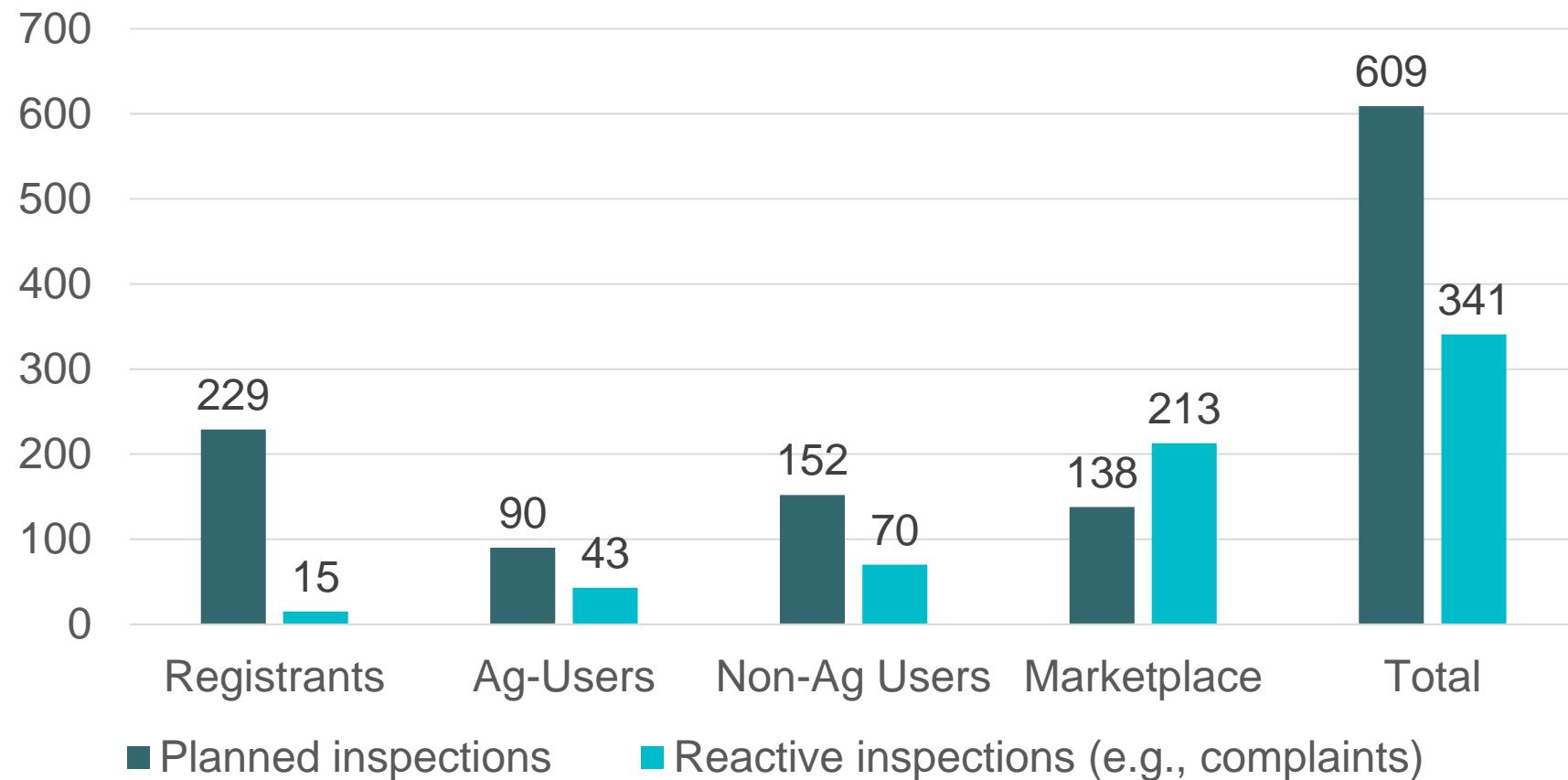
FY 2023-24 at a Glance

- **122** compliance promotion activities
- **955** inspections
 - 609 planned
 - 341 demand-driven (e.g. complaints)
- **1622** referrals from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) (81% refusal rate)
- **1886** enforcement actions issued to non-compliant parties
 - 1831 Warning Letters (including 1311 for illegal importations)
 - 42 Compliance Orders
 - 8 Notices of violations (total value: \$223,000 in penalties)
 - 5 Seizures
- **431** responses to enquiries (public, regulated parties)

Recent Results (Cont'd)

FY 2023-24 Compliance Verification (CV)

Compliance verification activities include both planned and demand-driven inspections to determine if regulated parties are meeting applicable legal requirements.



Recommendations to
Canadian Border
Services Agency: 1622

Current Priorities

FY 2024-25 Priorities by Sector

SECTOR	ACTIVITIES
REGISTRANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular inspections to verify compliance with PCPA ➤ Focussed inspections linked to re-evaluation decisions (label amendments and cancellations) ➤ <i>Pest Control Products Sales Information Reporting Regulations</i>
IMPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CBSA referrals and marketplace-related border activities
USERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agricultural and Non-Agricultural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-farm (e.g. grapes, potatoes) • Licensed pest control operators (lawncare, structural) • Golf courses
MARKETPLACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distribution in the brick & mortar marketplace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution centres (hardware, pharmacy, grocery, pet stores) • International stores/outlets ➤ Online distribution by 3rd party vendors on platforms and on social media

Highlight on Evolving Approach to Prevent Illegal Pesticides in Canada

- **Continued engagement with 3rd party resell platforms to remove / prevent postings of illegal pesticides**

Examples of Outcomes

- Products removed on an ongoing manner
- Blocking mechanisms in-place for selling unregistered pesticides
- Blocking mechanisms in-place for selling unregistered pesticides to Canadians
- Third-party vendors info provided to HC for follow-up enforcement

- **Informing Canadians about risks linked to unregistered products**

- Health Canada Public Advisory: Dichlorvos (DDVP)
- Analysis of illegal products in marketplace

Highlight on Evolving Approach to Prevent Illegal Pesticides in Canada (Cont'd)

- **Oversight on novel entities of online distribution chains**
- **Intervening beyond Canadian borders**
 - Enforcement on international vendors
 - Blocking access on websites to prevent purchasing

Type	Examples of Outcomes
International vendors websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of merchant information• Mechanisms to block sales to Canadian
Internet services providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of merchant information• Requiring mechanisms to block sales to Canadian

- **Increasing use of import data analytics (CBSA & courier)**

Highlight on Compliance Promotion

- A core function of the Program's mandate.
- Activities to increase awareness, inform and support compliance with PCPA/PCPR requirements:
 - Presentations to associations
 - Exhibit booths at trade shows
 - Development & distribution of compliance promotion materials to regulated parties:
 - Fact Sheets on re-evaluation decisions, key regulatory requirements and other compliance-related topics
 - Targeted Information Packages
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Public advisories
- Dedicated Pesticide C&E space on Canada.ca: canada.ca/pesticide-compliance

EXAMPLES OF COMPLIANCE PROMOTION MATERIALS

Fact sheets summarizing coming into force of re-evaluation decisions

March 2023

Changes to the registration of linuron pesticides



All pesticides used in Canada must be registered under the Pest Control Products Act. Pesticides are re-evaluated to ensure that they continue to meet health and environmental safety standards. Re-evaluation may result in the revocation of a product or product uses. Health Canada may also request changes to a product's label, including risk mitigation measures, use sites and application methods.

Linuron is an herbicide used to control broadleaf weeds and grassweeds in many crops. The key elements of the re-evaluation decision for the active ingredient linuron, published on November 5, 2020, are summarized below.

Label changes for linuron pesticides, as of November 5, 2022

Cancelled uses

Stop use on the following crops:

- Tree fruits (apple, peach, pear, plum/prune, cherry)
- Field corn
- Sweet corn
- Wheat
- Oat
- Barley
- Soybean
- Saskatoon berries

Stop the following applications:

- Aerial
- With handheld sprayer
- With airblast sprayer
- With right-of-way application equipment

Stop pre-emergent application combined with post-harvest application to asparagus

Cancelled uses delayed to November 5, 2024 for the following crops:

- Chokecherries
- Dill
- Coriander
- Caraway
- Celery
- Sweet white lupins

Interim risk mitigation measures

- Limitations of maximum application rates
- Extension of restricted-entry intervals (REI)
- Addition of environmental risk mitigation measures

April 2023

End of registration of chlorpyrifos pesticides



All pesticides used in Canada must be registered under the Pest Control Products Act. Pesticides are re-evaluated to ensure that they continue to meet health and environmental safety standards. Re-evaluation may result in the revocation of a product or product uses. Health Canada may also request changes to a product's label, including risk mitigation measures, use sites and application methods.

Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide used in agricultural and ornamental production, forestry and mosquito control. The re-evaluation of chlorpyrifos has proceeded in several phases since 2000. The update of the final re-evaluation decision was published on December 21, 2021.

All pesticides containing chlorpyrifos are cancelled.

As of December 10, 2022:
The sale of chlorpyrifos pesticides is prohibited.
The use of the **CITADEL480 EC** (registration No. 27479) is prohibited.

As of December 10, 2023:
Any use of chlorpyrifos pesticides is prohibited.

Cancelled product	Registration No.
DURSBAN	21997
LORSBAN 4 E	14879
LORSBAN 15 G	16458
LORSBAN 50 W	20944
LORSBAN NT	29650
MPOWER	33356
MPOWER KRYPTON	30985
NUFOS 4 E	25831
PYRATE 480 EC	23704
PYRIFOS 15 G	24648
PYRINEX 450 LV EC	33113
PYRINEX 480 EC	23705
WARHAWK 480 EC	29984
SHARPHOS	32768

Concluding Remarks

Looking into the future, Health Canada will continue to:

- Inform regulated parties about their obligations under the *Pest Control Products Act* and hold them accountable.
- Increase its efforts on preventing access to and the presence of illegal pest control products in Canada.
- Collaborate with regulators in and outside Canada to support compliance and the protection of Canadians and the environment.

Thank You For Your Attention!

Appendix 1- Key Federal Legislative Authorities

1. Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)

Primary Objective – Section 4(1): to prevent unacceptable risks to people and the environment from the use of pest control products

Prohibitions – Section 6:

- Section 6(1): prohibits the manufacture, possession, handling, storage, transport, import, distribution and use of unregistered pest control products
- Section 6(5): prohibits handling, storage, transport, use or disposal of a pest control product in a manner inconsistent with label directions
- Sections 45-60 prescribe all the administration and enforcement authorities (e.g. inspector powers, seizures, compliance measures)

2. Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act

Notices of violation (warnings or monetary penalties) are issued Under this Act

Appendix 2 - For More Information

Health Canada Pesticide C&E Section: canada.ca/pesticide-compliance

Health Canada Compliance and Enforcement Policy for Pesticides

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/policies-guidelines/compliance-enforcement-policy-pesticides.html>

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program Activity Report –2022-2023

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/corporate-plans-reports/pesticide-compliance-program-activity-report-2022-2023.html>

Health Canada Information Note regarding the use of Drones

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/drones-applying-pesticides.html>

Email: pcp-pcp@hc-sc.gc.ca

Annex 3 EXAMPLES OF COMPLIANCE PROMOTION MATERIALS

Examples of fact sheets summarizing key regulatory requirements

May 2023

Importing pesticides for personal use in Canada



Anyone who imports pesticides into Canada must comply with the requirements of Canadian regulations.

Any pesticide imported into Canada must be registered by Health Canada: herbicide, insecticide, flea treatment for animals, insect repellent, rodent poison, etc. However, there is an exemption for personal use if the pesticide meets all the following conditions:

- ✓ the product is imported by a person¹ for personal use
- ✓ the product is in its original packaging
- ✓ the original label of the product is in English or French and clearly indicates:
 - the active ingredient and its concentration
 - the quantity of the product
 - a registration or authorization number from the country of origin (e.g. U.S. EPA registration number)
- ✓ the total quantity does not exceed 500 g or 500 mL
- ✓ the imported product would be for domestic use if it were registered in Canada
- ✓ the product is not an organism or a device of a type described in Schedule 1 of the PCPR.

¹ The product must be in the importer's possession at the time of importation. Online purchases of unregistered pesticides and their shipment to Canada are not permitted under the exemption for pest control products imported for personal use.

The Canada Border Services Agency will refuse entry of ineligible pesticides. Health Canada may impose a monetary penalty on the person importing them.

IMPORTANT
The health and environmental safety of pesticides not registered in Canada has not been assessed by Health Canada. They may also not be properly labelled or packaged to ensure safe use, even if the imported pesticide has the same name as a pesticide registered in Canada.

Recognizing a product registered in Canada
All pesticides registered in Canada have a Health Canada-approved label with a registration number. It is important to read a pesticide label carefully, as it contains specific information on how to use it. To find a pesticide label, use our online [label search tool](#), or search for "Health Canada pesticide labels" using your favourite search engine.

For more information
Pest Control Products Regulations (PCPR): <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2006-124/>
The PCPR is the official Health Canada document. In the event of any discrepancy with the contents of this factsheet, the contents of the PCPR shall prevail.

Health Canada's Pesticides Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for enforcing compliance with the Pest Control Products Act. Visit: canada.ca/pesticide-compliance

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January 2024

Vegetative filter strips



This document was prepared by Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program to summarize the essential information regarding the construction, maintenance and use of vegetative filter strips (VFS) and the difference between them and spray buffer zones.

The role of a vegetative filter strip
A vegetative filter strip (VFS) is a strip of land with permanent vegetation mainly composed of grasses and located between a cultivated field and the bank of a body of water. It helps protect surface water located at the bottom of a slope by limiting the quantities of pesticides that enter it, as the VFS slows down runoff and filters transported pesticides. The use directions of pesticides that are harmful to aquatic organisms, persistent in the environment, poorly soluble or which have a high potential for binding to soil particles require a VFS of 10 meters. For some other products, the use directions recommend a VFS as a best management practice.

Construction and maintenance of a vegetative filter strip

Construction of a VFS	Maintenance of a VFS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A VFS must be installed between an agricultural field and the bank of a surface water body located at the bottom of a slope before the application of a pesticide for which a VFS is required. • The VFS must measure at least 10 meters, between the edge of the field and the body of surface water located on a slope (see the diagram in the appendix). • The VFS must be composed of grasses, but can also contain other types of plants (shrubs, trees, others). • The vegetation making up the VFS must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ perennial ○ with long lifespan ○ resistant ○ with rigid stem ○ deep-rooted ○ native 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VFS should be mowed occasionally with grass reaching at least 15 cm high. • Avoid compacting the soil and passing heavy equipment over the strip. • It is necessary to regularly check whether the VFS contains exposed patches, especially after heavy rainfall, snowmelt or after intensive irrigation. Damaged areas must be restored. • Built up soil should be removed from the strip.

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Annex 4: EXAMPLES OF COMPLIANCE PROMOTION MATERIALS

Examples of fact sheets on general pesticide compliance topics

January 2024

What is a pest control product?

Under the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA), pest control products, commonly known as pesticides, are products, devices, substance or living organisms meant to prevent, control or destroy pests. They are used in a great variety of context, including by agriculture, forestry and many other industries, by pest management companies and by the general public. There are more than 7600 registered pesticide products in Canada.

Examples of pesticides that are regulated under the PCPA

Plant growth regulators, herbicides, fungicides, defoliants
Insect repellents, insecticides (including fumigants), flea and tick products, insect growth regulators, miticides, ovicides
Animal repellents and attractants, rodenticides, molluscicides, nematicides, traps and bait (when they contain a pesticide)
Algicides, bactericides, silimicides, biocides, sanitizers, antimicrobials, antifouling paints, wood and material preservatives
Devices, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some UV radiation-emitting and ozone-generating devices meant to control, destroy or inactivate viruses, bacteria or other micro-organisms Some ultrasonic and electronic repellents
Articles treated with pesticides
Biopesticides (derived from natural materials such as animals, plants, bacteria and certain minerals)
Pesticide active ingredients and manufacturing concentrates

To verify if a product is a registered pesticide under the PCPA:

- Consult the label: All pesticides registered in Canada have a Health Canada-approved label with a registration number, presented as, Reg. No. 00000 P.C.P. Act or, Registration No. 00000 Pest Control Products Act
- Use the Health Canada's online [Pesticide Product Information Database](https://pest-control.canada.ca/pesticide-registry/en/product-search.html) (<https://pest-control.canada.ca/pesticide-registry/en/product-search.html>)
- Contact the [Pest Management Information Service](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/contact-us/pest-management-information-service.html) (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/contact-us/pest-management-information-service.html>)

For more information

Pest Control Product Act (PCPA): <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-9.01/page-1.html>
 The Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) is the official Health Canada document. In the event of any discrepancy with the contents of this document, the contents of the PCPA shall prevail.

Use-Site Category (USC) Definitions for Conventional Chemical Pesticides : <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/registrants-applicants/product-application/use-site-category-daco-tables/definitions-conventional-chemical-pesticides.html>

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for the enforcement of the Pest Control Products Act. Visit: <https://canada.ca/pesticide-compliance>

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February 2023

Pesticide compliance program Marketplace inspections

Anyone distributing pesticides in Canada must comply with the requirements of the Pest Control Products Act

The Pest Control Products Act regulates products intended to control, destroy, attract or repel pests. Products include:

- herbicides
- fungicides
- insecticides
- rodenticides
- pesticide-treated articles
- animal and insect repellents
- material and wood preservatives
- sanitizers, including pool and spa products
- devices, including devices emitting UV or ozone
- pet products (against fleas and ticks, for example)

Health Canada conducts inspections wherever pesticides are sold, in stores or online. We do this to ensure that any person or company selling pesticides complies with the Act. This means that they:

- possess, handle, store, transport, import, distribute or use pesticides that are registered in Canada
- handle, store, transport or use registered pesticides according to the label instructions
- sell pesticides in their original package or container, as it is prohibited to relabel or subdivide pesticides

How to know if the products on the shelves are registered

Pesticides registered by Health Canada have a registration number on the label. For example:

- Reg. No. 00000 P.C.P. Act
- Registration No. 00000 Pest Control Products Act

You can confirm that a product has registered status by using our "Search Product Label" online tool: <https://or-rp-hc-sc.gc.ca/s-re/index-eng.php>. You can also access this tool by typing "Health Canada pesticide labels" in a web search engine.

Non-compliance with the Act can result in enforcement measures.

For more information

Health Canada's Pesticides Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for enforcing compliance with the Pest Control Products Act. Visit canada.ca/pesticide-compliance.

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2023

农药合规计划市场检查

在加拿大分销农药的任何人都必须遵守《有害生物控制产品法 (Pest Control Products Act / Loi sur les produits antiparasitaires)》的要求

《有害生物控制产品法 (Pest Control Products Act / Loi sur les produits antiparasitaires)》对旨在控制、消灭或限制有害生物的产品进行监管。产品包括：

- 除草剂
- 杀虫剂
- 杀虫剂
- 灭鼠剂
- 设备，包括发射紫外线或臭氧的设备
- 宠物产品（例如驱虫剂和驱虫剂）

无论是实体店还是在网上销售农药，加拿大卫生部 (Health Canada / Santé Canada) 都会进行检查。我们这样做是为了确保任何销售农药的个人或公司都遵守该法。

这意味着他们必须：

- 购买、处理、储存、运输、进口、分发或使用已获加拿大注册的农药
- 根据标签说明处理、储存、运输或使用已注册的农药
- 在包装或容器中销售农药，因为禁止对农药重新包装或更细地分类

如何知道产品是否已注册

如果广告宣传或销售，在未在加拿大注册，已停售，注册文号失效的农药都是常见且不法的。例如：

- PCP法登记号00000
- 登记号00000

您可以在在线农药标签中输入“加拿大卫生部农药标签”来使用我们的在线农药标签搜索，确认产品是否已注册。

了解更多信息
请参阅 canada.ca/pesticide-compliance.

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* Some fact sheets are available in foreign languages.

Annex 5: EXAMPLES OF COMPLIANCE PROMOTION MATERIALS

Other communication materials

Pesticide compliance on Canada.ca

canada.ca/pesticide-compliance

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Search Canada.ca

Canada.ca > Health > Product safety > Pest control products

Pesticides compliance and enforcement: Overview

Overview Activities and results Information for regulated parties Resources Contact us

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for promoting, monitoring and enforcing compliance with the Pest Control Products Act (act) and its regulations. The legislation aims to protect human health and safety and the environment by regulating the use of "pest control products", also known as pesticides.

PCP operates under the Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch, Health Canada's dedicated compliance and enforcement branch. It coordinates and delivers its activities nationally with inspectors across Canada.

PCP strives to prevent unauthorized pesticides from being available on the Canadian market. It also verifies that regulated parties operate according to the act. These include:

- importers
- exporters
- manufacturers
- online and offline distributors and retailers
- users of pesticide users whose purposes are:

Video Collection

Introduction Video to Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program

With described video

Transcript

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program

YouTube

00:00:00 / 00:02:47