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# Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program Update

AAPCO's 79th Annual Meeting  
March 1st-4th, 2026  
David Quesnel

# Presentation Overview

- Pesticide Compliance Program Overview
- Compliance and Enforcement Activities
- Recent Results
- Evolving approaches to preventing illegal pesticides in Canada
- Q's and A's

# Pesticide Regulation in Canada: Shared Responsibilities

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

# Pest Control Products Act - Roles and Responsibilities

Health Canada

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graph TD; HC[Health Canada] --> PMRA[Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)]; HC --> ROEB[Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB): Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP)]; PMRA <--> ROEB;
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Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)

Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB):  
Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP)

- Responsible for administering the PCPA and its regulations **on behalf of the Minister**, through:
  - ✓ Premarket registration of pesticides
  - ✓ Label approval
  - ✓ Re-evaluation of pesticides
  - ✓ Incident Reporting
  - ✓ Inquiries

- Responsible for **promoting, monitoring and enforcing compliance** with the PCPA and its regulations by:
  - ✓ Compliance verification/Inspections (planned/demand driven)
  - ✓ Complaint responses
  - ✓ Compliance Promotion
  - ✓ Inquiries

# 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.

## 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 legislative requirements.

## Core Activities

- Conduct compliance promotion activities.
- Conduct compliance inspections to verify compliance.
- Take enforcement actions to address non-compliance and associated risks.

# Compliance and Enforcement Activities

Sector of Regulated Community	C&E Activities to “promote, verify and enforce...”
<b>Registrants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>requirements with respect to manufacture, labelling, packaging, advertising, research, sales reporting, and incident reporting.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Marketplace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>that only authorized pest control products are being distributed in Canada</i></li> </ul>
<b>Agricultural Users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>that only authorized pest control products are being used in Canada and that they are being used in accordance to label directions.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Non-Agricultural Users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>that only authorized pest control products are being used in Canada and that they are being used in accordance to label directions.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Importers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>that only authorized pest control products are being imported into Canada.</i></li> </ul>

# Compliance Promotion

- Promoting compliance is a strategically planned function
- Compliance promotion encompasses a variety of activities, including booths, media outreach, stakeholder engagements, presentations, and information sharing.
- Aim to inform stakeholders and regulated parties about their roles and responsibilities under the PCPA and its regulations.



# Examples of Compliance Promotion Materials

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 person<sup>1</sup> 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.

**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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**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](https://canada.ca/pesticide-compliance)




## DANGEROUS INSECTICIDES



**These pesticide products contain dichlorvos at a level that is very dangerous for human health.**

**DO NOT USE THESE PRODUCTS.**

Only use insecticides that have been assessed for safety and efficacy by Health Canada. Look for a *Pest Control Product Act* registration number on the product label and follow the directives on the label to use it safely.

It is **illegal** to import, sell and use insecticides that are not registered by Health Canada.

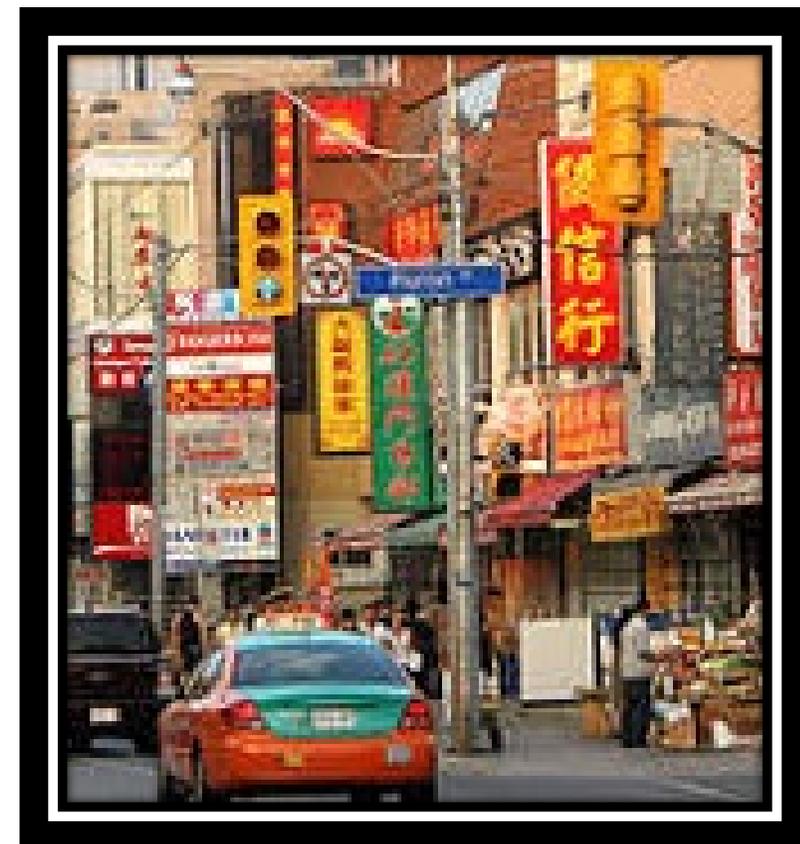
For more information, contact [pcp-ppc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:pcp-ppc@hc-sc.gc.ca) or scan:



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




# Compliance Verification – Marketplace Sector



# Enforcement Tools



- Consider the level of response required based on:
  - History of non-compliance
  - Degree of harm
  - Intent
- Various enforcement tools available:
  - Warning Letter
  - Voluntary Removal
  - Seizures & Detentions
  - Denial of Entry into Canada; Border Targets
  - Compliance Order
  - Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs)
  - Prosecution

# Enforcement Bulletins



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## Enforcement Bulletins

This section provides information on violations of the [Pest Control Products Act](#) and its Regulations that have warnings, penalties, and/or convictions.

The [Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties \(AMPS\) Act](#) provides a system of penalties and warnings for violations of several federal Acts including the *Pest Control Products Act*, which regulates pesticides. The AMPS Act allows Canadian pesticide regulatory officials to impose penalties without having to pursue formal prosecution. As a result of amendments to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations Respecting the Pest Control Products Act and Regulations, the penalties have increased. The applicable penalty amount in case of a violation with a date of awareness on or after 12 December 2018 is provided for in Section 5 of the [Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations Respecting the Pest Control Products Act and Regulations](#).

▶ [2025](#)

▶ [2024](#)

▶ [2023](#)

▶ [2022](#)

▶ [2021](#)

# Enforcement Bulletins

## ▼ [2025](#)

- ▶ [En \(Tony\) Lin was fined \\$10,000 for the distribution of an unregistered pest control product.](#)
- ▶ Intrachem Industries Inc. was fined \$60,000 for the importation and distribution of an unregistered pest control product.
- ▶ Extermination Grand Montréal Inc., doing business as Extermination Saint-Sauveur, was fined \$10,000 for using a pest control product in a way that is inconsistent with the label directions.
- ▶ Pestigone Pest Control Services Inc. was fined \$20,000 for the possession of an unregistered pest control product and making a false or misleading statement to an inspector, and was issued a warning for using registered pest control products in a way that is inconsistent with label directions.
- ▶ John Maendel was issued two warnings for using a pest control product that is not registered in Canada and in a way that endangers human health and the environment.
- ▶ Joseph Rene Saindon was fined \$20,000 for the distribution of two unregistered pest control products and received four warnings for their manufacture and distribution in a way that endangers human health or the environment.
- ▶ Holmfield Colony Farms Ltd. was fined \$30,000 for possessing a pest control product that is not registered in Canada and storing pest control products in a way that endangers human health or the environment and was

## National Results at a Glance - FY 2024-25

- 194 compliance promotion activities
- 1031 compliance verifications across all sectors
  - 595 planned / 436 demand-driven (e.g. complaints)
  - 602 of 1031 inspections (58%) identified at least one contravention to the PCPA
- 2501 referrals from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) (87% refusal rate)
  - over 1485 kg of unauthorized pesticides and a total of 3508 units of devices, and miscellaneous unauthorized pesticide items were prevented from entering Canada
- 2907 enforcement actions issued to non-compliant parties
  - 2824 Warning Letters (including 2330 for illegal importations)
  - 34 Compliance Orders
  - 39 Notices of Violations (NOVs) with penalty (total value: \$392,000 in penalties)
  - 3 NOVs with warning
- 7 seizures of non-compliant products
- 117 actions to restrict sales of non-compliant product to Canadians from online marketplace.
- 457 responses to enquiries (public, regulated parties)

# ONLINE MARKETPLACE



The digital age, globalization, and evolving customer preferences have reshaped how pesticides are being purchased.

# Key legislative authorities supporting the prevention of illegal pesticides in Canada

## *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)*

### Key Prohibition:

- Section 6(1): no person shall manufacture, **import, distribute** or use unregistered pest control products

*\* “distribute” means: distribute in any way, whether or not for consideration, and includes sell, offer for sale or distribution, and expose, display or advertise for sale or distribution.*

### Key Power:

*Production of documents, information or samples*

- *51(1) An inspector may, for a purpose related to verifying compliance or preventing non-compliance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations, order a person to provide, on the date, at the time and place and in the manner specified by the inspector, any document, information or sample specified by the inspector.*

## The Case of Dichlorvos Products

### Despite successes in addressing risks using usual approaches

- Web monitoring / data analysis / border targets.
- Regular interceptions / products seized at border and in the marketplace.
- Enforcement on individual vendors.
- Information to Canadians.

### Challenges remain

- Products still offered and available to Canadians, mainly online.
- Volume, anonymity, geographic locations of vendors.



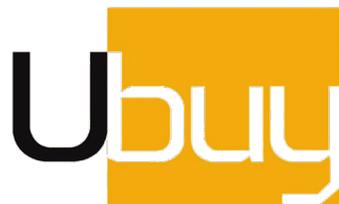
**“New challenges call for new approaches”**

# Adopting novel approaches to address the risks associated with illegal pesticide products distributed via the online marketplace.



## A Collaborative Approach with Online Platforms

- **Proactive stakeholder engagement with online platforms has resulted in foundational collaborations and significant, immediate and lasting impacts.**
  - ❑ Identified illegal pesticides used to inform internal filters, creating ability for online platforms to identify existing and future illegal product listings before they are posted.
  - ❑ Uses several layers of tech-reliant checks and balances - keyword-based filters, machine learning and AI algorithms, geographic-based filters, image-recognition.
  
- **Effective use of Program resources.**



## A Collaborative Approach - Oversight on International Merchant-Specific Web Sites

Through proactive monitoring and importation trends analysis, scope has widened to include merchant-specific web sites powered by major technology companies.

- Engaging with companies that host or provide internet services for specific websites that are distributing unregistered pesticides to Canadians.
- Use of 51(1) Orders to order information to assist with identifying regulated parties through financial and telecommunication institutions.

### Web Hosting Providers



### Payment Processing Companies



## Emerging challenges

- Social Media platform with digital marketplace that is hesitant to take proactive activity to prevent illegal pesticides from being posted
  - Illegal pesticides readily available for anyone to purchase.
  - Established capacity to implement filters (e.g. in place for firearms, drugs, etc.)
  - Existing internal policies that prohibit *all* pesticides from being listed.
  
- Identifying individual merchants – requirement by many international companies that there be a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in order for them to share private and/or personal information.
  
- Risks associated in dealing with individual merchants.

## Concluding Remarks

- Despite continued progress, high-risk illegal pesticides still found in the marketplace (online and in-store).
- Engaging online platforms greatly improves compliance of the overall marketplace, and use of border data allows to target new online platforms to further curb the influx of unregistered pesticides at the border.
- There are limitations to effective actions when acting unilaterally outside jurisdiction and with international corporations.
- Regulatory collaboration in this area could provide significant results in preventing the sale of illegal pesticides worldwide.

# Q's and A's

