



Re-evaluation Note

REV2007-08

Update on Re-evaluation of Azinphos-methyl

On 13 April 2006, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published Re-evaluation Note [REV2006-04](#), *Update on Re-evaluation of Azinphos-methyl*, announcing that all uses of azinphos-methyl would be phased out. The REV2006-04 also indicated that the PMRA had received new occupational exposure data. This document provides an update on the results of the submitted data and the PMRA's decision on the re-evaluation of azinphos-methyl.

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1.0 Background

In Re-evaluation Decision Document [RRD2004-05](#), *Azinphos-methyl*, the PMRA concluded that the use of azinphos-methyl and its associated end-use products in accordance with the current label directions entails an unacceptable risk of harm to agricultural workers. As a result, the PMRA determined that all uses for azinphos-methyl were to be phased out.

As per REV2006-04, *Update on Re-evaluation of Azinphos-methyl*, the PMRA had received new occupational exposure data, and the phase-out dates for the remaining crops were revised by one year to allow the PMRA to review the submitted data.

2.0 Revised Phase-Out Schedule

The PMRA has completed the review of the registrant-submitted occupational exposure data. The review did not result in significant changes to the risk assessment. Risks to workers do not meet current standards and are of concern. As a result, the remaining potential human health risk concerns identified in RRD2004-05 will continue to be managed to the extent possible by measures discussed in the RRD.

Since the publication of Re-evaluation Note REV2006-04, the PMRA has acknowledged significant challenges involved in transitioning from azinphos-methyl to safer alternatives. Newer alternatives are more costly and generally require more precise application. Crop experts point out the importance of adopting these innovations gradually so that growers learn appropriate application techniques and gain confidence in the efficacy of the new pesticides.

Canadian extension experts and growers believe it will take several years to integrate multiple selective products in a season-long control strategy. The PMRA will, therefore, extend the last date of use for critical uses of products containing azinphos-methyl to 2012, with a condition that the PMRA will monitor compliance with stewardship program requirements. The revised phase-out schedule for azinphos-methyl is as follows:

- Last date of sale by registrants: 31 December 2010
- Last date of sale by retailers: 31 December 2011
- Last date of use of product by users: 31 December 2012

The PMRA has begun work to facilitate the development of a transition strategy for the phase-out of azinphos-methyl. This process will address challenges encountered by growers as they move toward alternative pest control methods. Through stakeholder involvement, the PMRA will facilitate the move away from the use of azinphos-methyl, while attempting to minimize impacts on growers.

3.0 Affected Uses and Products

Azinphos-methyl products with uses on apples, crab apples, apricots, blackberries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, pears, peaches, plums, prunes and raspberries are affected by this new phase-out schedule. This extension of registration applies to the following four products:

- 1) Guthion Solupak 50% Wettable Powder Crop Insecticide, Registration Number 21374
- 2) Sniper 50W Clean Pak Insecticide, Registration Number 23323
- 3) Azinphos-methyl 240 EC Spray Concentrate, Registration Number 17533
- 4) Azinphos-methyl 50W Wettable Powder Insecticide, Registration Number 15645

With the exception of the revised phase-out dates presented above, conditions of continued use for these products remain as per RRD2004-05. The PMRA will monitor the compliance of the azinphos-methyl stewardship programs.