

Pest
Management
Regulatory
Agency

Annual Report

2023-2024



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For further information, please contact:

Publications

Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2 Constellation Drive
8th floor, A.L. 2608 A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9
E-mail: pmra.publications-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca

Pest Management Information Service

E-mail: pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca

Internet: canada.ca/pesticides

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About this report

The activities described in this report reflect the work of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. Significant progress has been achieved, notably in advancing initiatives aimed at modernizing business processes, improving transparency and better informing regulatory decisions. PMRA Annual Reports are written from a point-in-time perspective, accounting for knowledge and developments over the course of the given fiscal year. Changes or developments since 31 March 2024 will be described in future reports.



Year in review

2023–2024 PMRA activity highlights

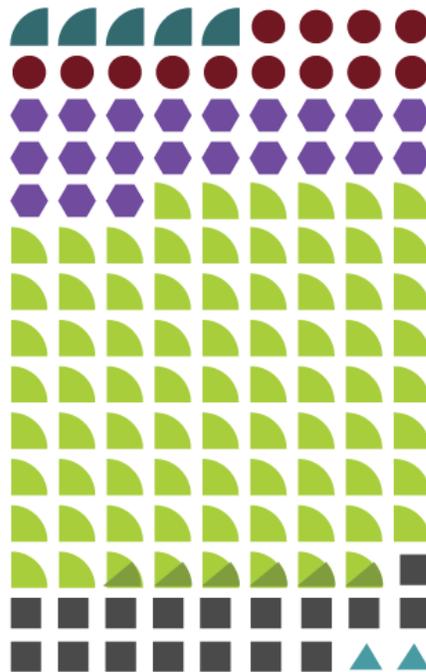
Pesticide regulatory decisions

Our core work involves studying the health and environmental risks and value of new and existing pesticides. These scientific assessments guide our decisions, including pesticide registrations.

5 ▼ 9 from 14
in 2022–2023
new active ingredients
Substances that control pests combined with other ingredients to make end-use products

21 ▲ 4 from 17
in 2022–2023
emergency registrations
Temporary pesticide registrations for emergency pest situations

17 ▼ 9 from 26
in 2022–2023
re-evaluation final decisions
Re-assessments of currently registered pesticides



13 ▼ 5 from 18
in 2022–2023
end-use products
Final pesticide products that contain new active ingredients

77 ▲ 13 from 64
in 2022–2023
minor-use decisions
New pesticide uses in smaller-scale applications

6 joint U.S. reviews

2 ▲ 1 from 1
in 2022–2023
special review final decisions
Re-assessments of currently registered pesticides addressing key areas of concern

Strengthening science-based decision making

In 2023–2024, the PMRA continued to build capacity in gathering and incorporating new information into the assessment and regulation of pesticides.



Developed a water monitoring framework to guide a collaborative national-scale water monitoring program for pesticides



Developed a pesticide use information framework to improve access to real-world pesticide use information



Began development of AI tools for scientific literature searches to do broad scans of new science



Sought independent advice from the Science Advisory Committee through 4 meetings, resulting in 27 recommendations on 2 science questions

Improving transparency and engagement

This year, the PMRA made it easier for people in Canada to access information and engage in the pesticide regulatory process. New initiatives focused on clearer communication and stronger partnerships to support transparent decision making.



Held 54 public consultations engaging people in Canada on major proposed pesticide decisions



Created plain-language web content for 4 key decisions ensuring that regulatory decisions are clear, accessible, and available to everyone



Improved communication about maximum residue limits (MRLs) through new web content to explain pesticide residue limits on food



Introduced the transparency policy on stakeholder meetings making information on our meetings with stakeholders available to the public



Increased public access to confidential test data, processing 19 data requests through the Public Engagement Portal

Supporting global initiatives

We work with global partners to advocate for harmonized science-based decision making that prioritizes health and environmental protection.

Collaborated with global partners to reduce animal testing

The PMRA is an active participant in international efforts to reduce, refine and replace the need for animal studies in pesticide assessments.

Supported Canada's efforts under the Global Biodiversity Framework

The PMRA is working with federal partners to meet targets intended to safeguard nature and halt and reverse biodiversity loss.



Protecting human health and the environment from the risks of pesticides

The PMRA is the branch of Health Canada responsible for regulating pesticides under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*. The PMRA's primary mandate is to prevent unacceptable risks to people in Canada and their environment from the use of these products.

Pest control is necessary for a variety of reasons, including the production of safe and nutritious food, the protection of the environment from invasive species, and the prevention of diseases in humans.

In Canada, the definition of a pesticide, also referred to as a “pest control product”, is broad:

- any product, device, organism, substance or thing that is manufactured, represented, sold or used as a means for directly or indirectly controlling, preventing, destroying, mitigating, attracting or repelling any pest

While most of these products are chemical in nature, they can also include:

- devices like traps or attractants
- plant-based substances like essential oils or garlic juice
- viruses and strains of bacteria

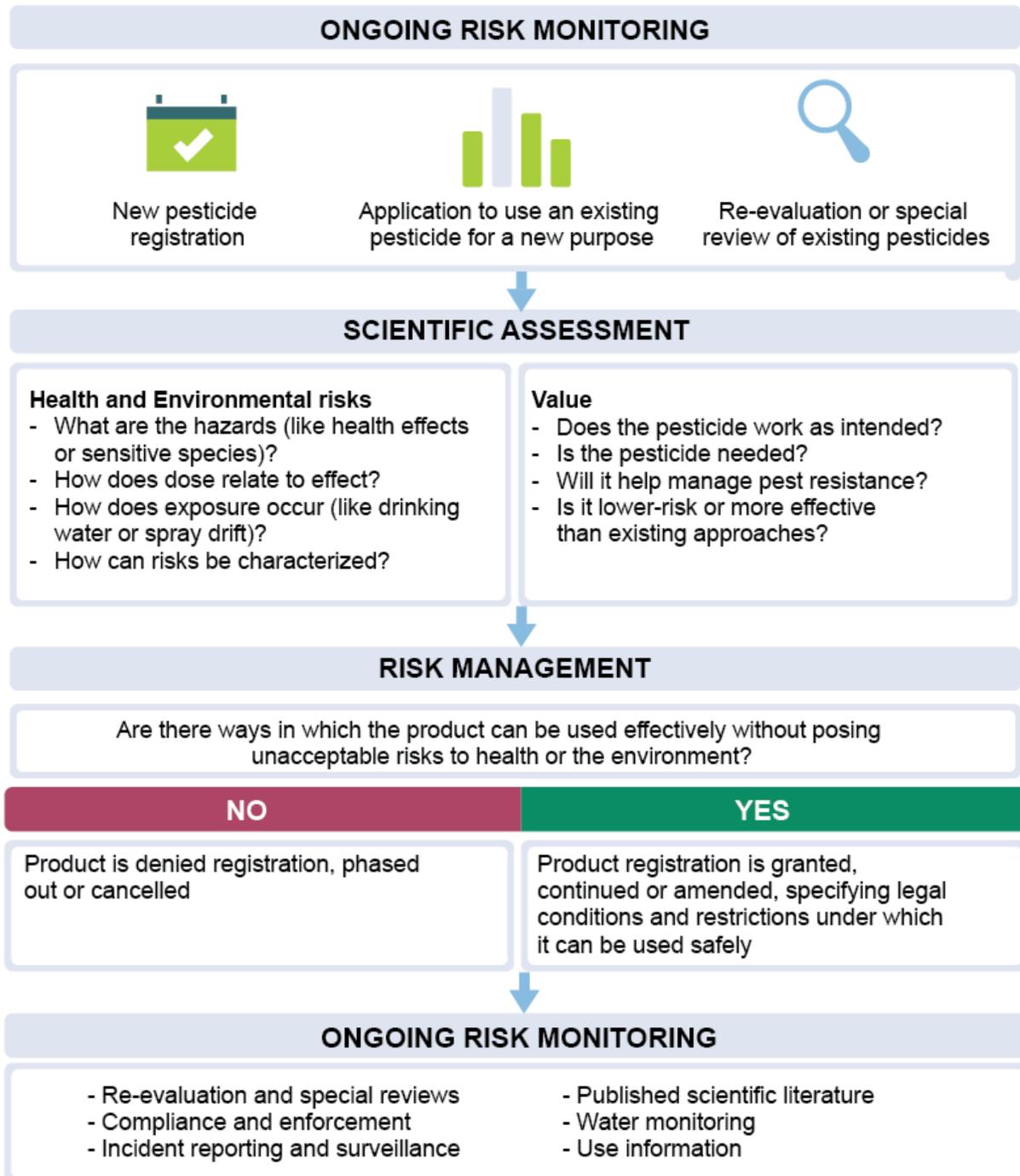
Pesticides need to be carefully regulated because of their potentially toxic properties.

A pesticide will only be registered for use in Canada after PMRA scientists complete a robust, science-based assessment to ensure that when the product is used as intended, it will not present unacceptable risks to human health or the environment, and the product is needed and works against the target pest (in other words, it has value). Our scientists apply modern, science-based approaches to assess the health and environmental risks and value of pesticides.

Our work also includes monitoring risks of existing products on the market, for example through re-evaluations, special reviews, incident reporting, and compliance and enforcement activities, to ensure that new information is continuously considered in permitting the product to be registered, marketed and used.

Scientific evaluation of the health and environmental risks and value of pesticides: basic principles

The following is a very general overview of how the PMRA evaluates the risks and value of pesticides. More details on these assessments are available in A Framework for Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Pest Control Products.



New pesticide registrations

As science, agriculture, and pest pressures evolve, the need for new pest control strategies continues. Many newer pesticides work in novel ways that make them more targeted, effective and lower risk than older pesticides.

As innovations in pest control are developed, existing frameworks may need to be adjusted to ensure appropriate oversight so that Canadians can access new and lower-risk pesticides in a timely manner.

There are different categories of pesticide registrations, and each application for a new pesticide will have a unique set of data requirements to show that the pesticide can be used without causing unacceptable health or environmental risks.

Among pest control products that are applied as mixtures, the substance with the pesticidal effect is called an active ingredient. Active ingredients are usually combined with other ingredients to produce the product that will ultimately be applied as a pesticide, called an end-use product. Data specific to each product must be assessed before granting registration.

There are three main types of active ingredient and end-use product:

- conventional chemical pesticides
- biopesticides derived from natural sources such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, plants, animals and minerals
- antimicrobial pesticides for the control of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi

In 2023–2024:

- 5 new active ingredients were registered
 - 3 new active ingredients were biopesticides
 - 2 new active ingredients were conventional chemical pesticides
- 13 new end-use products were registered containing the new active ingredients above.

Full list of new active ingredients registered in 2023–2024 can be found in Appendix Table 2.

The number of new active ingredients registered was lower than in previous years due to an increase in the number of applications rejected or withdrawn and a significant number of complex applications that resulted in more work and longer approval times.

In the last 10 years, biopesticides derived from natural sources have made up more than half of new pesticide registrations.

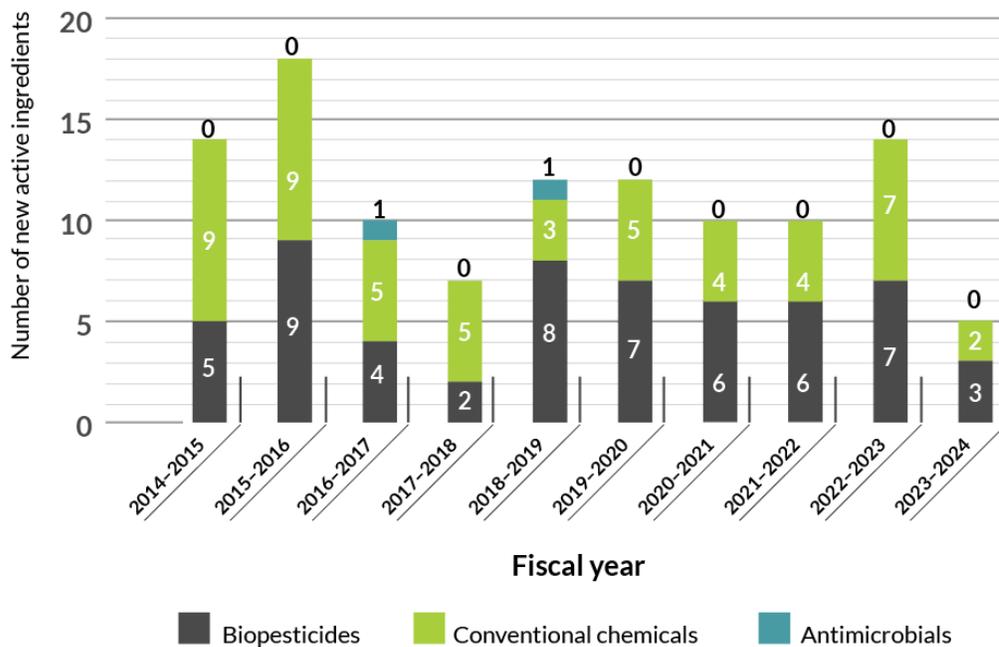
Plutella xylostella granulovirus (Plutex) — a new biopesticide for use against the diamondback moth

The diamondback moth is a pest on canola, brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower.

The active ingredient in Plutex is a baculovirus. These viruses generally infect one or a small group of related insect species, so risks to human health are not of concern. When plant tissue that has been sprayed with Plutex is consumed by diamondback moth larvae, virus particles infect cells lining the insect gut. Infection leads to the death of the larvae within approximately 6 days.



Figure 1 Number of new active ingredients of each type registered over the last 10 years



Generic registrations

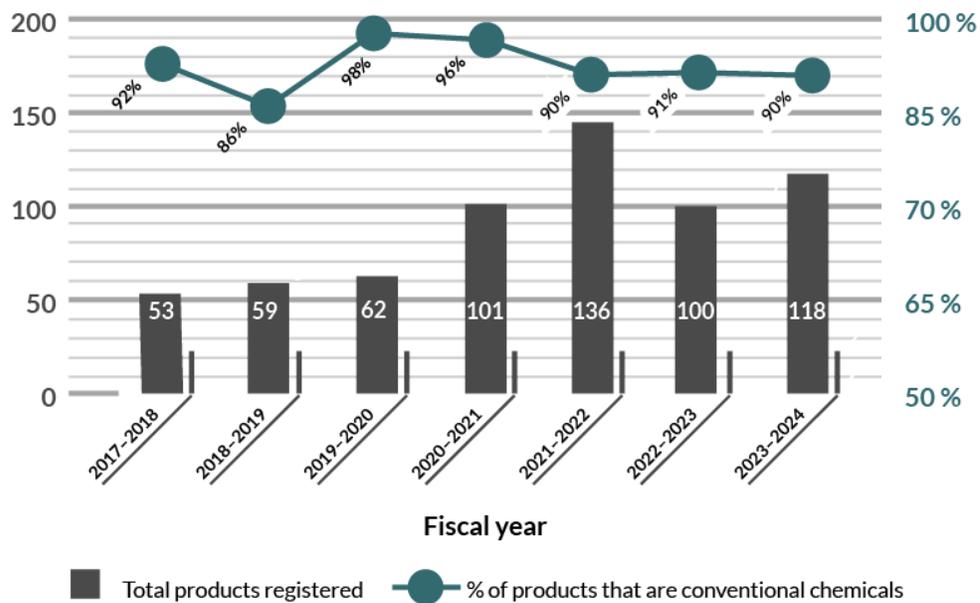
Generic registrations allow the introduction of pesticide products that are equivalent to existing registered pesticides, after a period in which the original registrant (the innovator) has exclusive use protection. Generic registrations can create market competition to the benefit of users, for example growers and the public, by lowering prices.

The PMRA has regulations in place to ensure that the innovator is compensated by generic registrants for the investment made in producing the data necessary to register a product. On 4 December 2023, updated regulations came into force that clarify how registrants are compensated when pesticides that have generic versions undergo re-evaluations and special reviews.

2023–2024 Generic registrations

- 272 applications to register or amend generic products
- 118 new generic registrations
 - 55 new generic active ingredient registrations
 - 63 new generic end-use product registrations
- 93% of new generic registrations were agricultural products

Figure 2 Number of generic registrations over the last seven fiscal years



Maximum residue limits

A maximum residue limit (MRL) is the maximum amount of residue that is expected to remain on food products when a pesticide is used according to label directions. These are set at levels well below the amount that could pose a health concern and are established for each combination of pesticide and treated food crop.

The PMRA sets science-based MRLs to ensure the food Canadians eat is safe. As of December 2023, Canada had approximately 27 500 pesticide MRLs set (Figure 3). While 886 MRLs were set in 2022–2023, 1278 MRLs were set in 2023–2024, as the PMRA worked through a backlog of MRLs that accumulated during the pause set in 2021. Typically, an MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product derived from these raw commodities. If it is determined that an unacceptable risk exists based upon how the pesticide is intended to be used, the pesticide will not be permitted for sale or use in Canada.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for monitoring MRL compliance in foods in the Canadian marketplace. In its most recent published results from targeted surveys of pesticide residues in food, for 2020–2021, 97.9% of sampled foods were compliant with established MRLs. In their most recent 2022 Children’s Food Project report, the overall compliance rate for pesticide MRLs in products sampled was 100%. The compliance rate from previous reports along with these recent surveys continues to indicate that the vast majority of food on the market meets Canadian pesticide residue standards.

From an international perspective, differences in MRLs between countries can lead to trade barriers. If an importing country's MRL for a given commodity is set lower than Canada's, this can lead to the importing country refusing entry to the Canadian commodity, despite that the difference does not reflect a health risk.

International differences in MRLs can occur due to differences in both use patterns and data available to regulators at the time of MRL establishment, as well as other factors. Aligning MRLs globally has become increasingly important to reduce barriers to the movement of treated agricultural food products around the world. Domestic and international collaboration is critical in resolving these issues. This is especially important to help ensure that Canadian crops can be exported to international markets and that Canadians have access to foods they want and need at home.

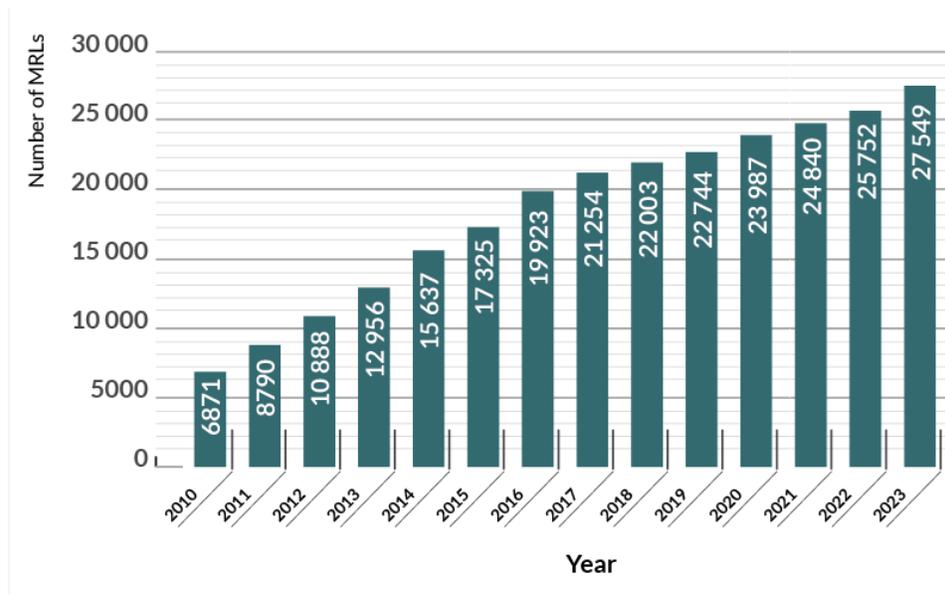
The PMRA continued work with its international partners under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Codex Alimentarius Commission, on science policies relevant to establishing MRLs.

The PMRA is also continuing with an import MRL pilot project to explore the feasibility of specifying import MRLs using only foreign country reviews, if available, which is based on a similar pilot project conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs. Preference is given to reviews prepared by the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization Meeting on Pesticide Residues (Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues), in which Canada actively participates, along with the European Food Safety Authority, the United States and other OECD countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

The absence of an MRL for a particular pesticide-crop combination in an export market (sometimes called a "missing MRL"), or MRL differences can also be a challenge for agricultural exporters. The PMRA continues to support Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in efforts to address this challenge by providing policy and technical expertise to promote Canada's interests in international standard-setting for pesticide MRLs on agricultural commodities.

For information about the 2021 pause on the establishment of MRLs and increased transparency efforts around MRLs, please see [Case Study: Communications around Maximum Residue Limits \(MRLs\)](#).

Figure 3 Number of Canadian MRLs over time, including new MRLs



Working with stakeholders to address emerging issues

The minor use program

Minor use registrations are an important way for Canadian growers to gain access to pesticides for situations that may be so specific or uncommon that the sales would not be high enough to persuade a pesticide manufacturer to register the product for that use in Canada.

These can include lower-risk products and biopesticides, and can address specific needs that arise as older and/or higher-risk products are phased out.

A minor use registration may apply to a major crop because the use may be needed only occasionally, or is limited to a small percentage of the total area of the crop.

The PMRA works with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pest Management Centre to support growers and grower associations in identifying priorities for new minor use registrations in Canada. The PMRA also works directly with the provinces to assist in addressing regional minor use needs.

Minor use decisions in 2023–2024:

- 77 regulatory decisions were made in support of minor uses
 - 39 addressed provincial needs
 - 38 addressed grower priorities identified at the national Minor Use Pesticide Priority Setting Workshop
 - 6 among these were joint reviews with the United States Environmental Protection Agency

Emergency registrations

A pest control product can be registered for the emergency control of pest situations such as:

- invasion by a new pest organism
- sudden and significant increase in pest pressures due to environmental or other conditions
- the need for an alternative application method due to adverse weather conditions

Emergency registrations provide a temporary solution for emergency pest situations while longer-term registration or other solutions are pursued.

An emergency is generally deemed to exist when both of the following criteria are met:

- an unexpected and unmanageable pest outbreak or pest situation occurs that can cause significant health, environmental or economic problems
- registered pesticides and cultural control methods or practices are insufficient to address the pest outbreak

In 2023–2024, the PMRA granted 21 emergency registrations.

Joining forces to protect against invasive spotted lanternfly

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect native to south eastern Asia that first became established in North America in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since spread to 16 of the eastern United States.

Spotted lanternflies lay eggs in masses on nearly any hard surface, usually with a covering that resembles dried mud, making them easy to overlook and likely to be transported by human activities.

Spotted lanternfly has the potential to become a serious pest of crops such as grapes and tree fruits as well as other trees such as sugar maple and shade trees.

As of March 2024, live spotted lanternflies had not yet reached Canada, but they were found to be established as close to the border as Buffalo, New York.

In anticipation of spotted lanternfly spread, the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA) established a working group of representatives from the PMRA, the governments of British Columbia, Ontario and Québec, grower groups, and the [Canadian Council on Invasive Species](#) to plan response strategies, including identification and registration of pest control products to help manage the pest.

In the spring of 2023, the PMRA received an application from the CFIA for emergency registration of Altus Insecticide (Reg. No. 33176, flupyradifurone) for use in all 10 provinces to control spotted lanternfly on outdoor nursery and landscape ornamental plants, which was granted for the period of 22 June 2023 until 21 June 2024.

In July 2023, the PMRA registered two minor uses to manage spotted lanternfly: Kopa Insecticidal Soap (potassium salts of fatty acids, Reg No. 31433) for use on pome fruit, stone fruit, grapes, and outdoor ornamentals; and Danitol Insecticide (fenpropathrin, Reg. No. 33817) for use on pome and stone fruit.



Managing the risks of pesticides after they are registered

Re-evaluations and special reviews

After pesticides are registered and are being used, new information may become available that could affect previously made regulatory decisions about registered pesticides.

This could include new science pertaining to the health or environmental effects of the pesticide, new or more refined approaches to assessing risks, or unforeseen impacts that only become apparent once the product is being used under real-world conditions.

Consideration of these uncertainties is a key element of our core work of assessing and managing pesticide risks. The *Pest Control Products Act* requires the PMRA to re-evaluate registered pesticides every 15 years or sooner, to determine whether the use of these products continues to be acceptable according to the most current standards and information.

Special reviews are another mechanism used under the *Pest Control Products Act* to determine the continued acceptability of registered pesticides. Unlike a re-evaluation, the intent of a special review is to address specific aspect(s) of concern, and is triggered when:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the health or environmental risks of the product are, or its value is, unacceptable; or
- an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member country prohibits all uses of an active ingredient for health or environmental reasons.

Following a scientific review where new evidence is examined or applied, PMRA scientists make a proposed decision about whether changes to the pesticide's use or registration status are necessary to protect human health or the environment.

Proposed decisions are published online for public review and comment. PMRA scientists review and consider all the comments received in making a final decision about the pesticide.

Occasionally, new evidence is received during the consultation process that results in changes to the final decision. For example, this could include new information about how the product is being used, or information about the feasibility of proposed changes to use instructions.

Final re-evaluation and special review decisions are then posted online and include implementation timelines for any required changes to how the product can be used.

Re-evaluation and special review decisions published in 2023–2024:

- 8 proposed re-evaluation decisions
- 17 final re-evaluation decisions
- 2 proposed special review decisions
- 2 final special review decisions
- overall performance is **88%** as per the Re-evaluation Note REV2023-01, Pest Management Regulatory Agency Re-evaluation and Special Review Work Plan 2023–2028

Please see Appendix Table 3 for more information about these decisions.

Re-evaluations may result in product cancellation, no changes to registration or changes to the label instructions to increase protection of human health or the environment, or to meet updated labelling requirements. Of the 19 re-evaluation and special review decisions completed in 2023–2024:

- 1 decision resulted in cancellation of all products containing the active ingredient
- 11 decisions required changes to the label use instructions to increase the protection of human health and/or the environment
- 6 decisions resulted in label updates to meet current labelling standards
- 1 decision resulted in continued registration with no required changes to the labels

Label changes to increase protection included:

- additional personal protective equipment and/or engineering controls
- changes to restricted entry/re-treatment intervals
- reduction in the amount of pesticide that can be applied
- additional spray buffer zones

Compliance and enforcement

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP), managed by the Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB), is responsible for promoting, verifying and enforcing compliance with the *Pest Control Products Act* and its Regulations.

The PCP conducts a variety of compliance promotion and verification activities of parties regulated by the *Pest Control Products Act* including pesticide registrants, importers, retailers, and users.

Activities include:

- promoting compliance by providing important information to regulated parties
- verifying compliance through inspections and sampling
- analytic support provided by the ROEB Pesticide Laboratory
- taking enforcement action through warning letters, compliance orders or seizure
- issuing notices of violation which can include penalties and prosecution
- partnering with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to refuse entry of unauthorized pesticides into Canada.

The PCP publishes an annual report describing compliance and enforcement activities in greater detail, and these reports are listed on Health Canada's PMRA Corporate plans and reports page. The following is a summary of those activities.

In 2023–2024, 955 compliance verifications were conducted, and 1622 admissibility recommendations on importation were issued to the CBSA.

The PCP issued a total of 1886 enforcement responses addressing single or multiple violations to non-compliant regulated parties, including:

- 1831 warning letters
- 42 compliance orders
- 5 seizures of unregistered products

In partnership with the CBSA, 1311 importations containing unauthorized products were refused entry into Canada.

Under the Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act, 8 administrative monetary penalties were issued for a total value of \$223 000.

In addition, the PCP conducted 148 compliance promotion activities directed to associations, during industry trade shows, or through targeted dissemination of compliance promotion materials.



Transformation highlight

Progress on continuous oversight and proportional effort: A new model for assessing and managing the risks of registered pesticides

The PMRA is taking steps to improve its pesticide review process by introducing a proposed policy on the Continuous Oversight (CO) of Pesticides. This policy will help the PMRA keep up with the pace of research and evolving scientific information on pesticides and respond in a timely manner to emerging risks.

As soon as a pesticide is first registered in Canada and throughout its regulatory lifecycle, the PMRA will collect and assess new scientific information on an ongoing basis. When concerns arise, the PMRA will take timely regulatory action where needed to protect health and the environment.

The draft Proportional Effort (PE) policy is intended to present a systematic approach to determine the appropriate level of oversight that should be associated with an active ingredient. Building on the PMRA's existing risk-based approaches, it outlines how the PMRA will identify, assess, and manage risk to human health and the environment in a proportionate manner by directing efforts towards those active ingredients that present the potential for greatest concern, and streamlining approaches for the review of lower-priority active ingredients. This determination will be informed by the most recent and relevant science available, including toxicity, exposure to the environment, and potential dietary and cancer risk.

Coupled with continuous oversight, proportional effort supports a more sustainable approach to managing risks throughout the pesticide regulatory lifecycle.

In 2023–2024, the PMRA:

- conducted extensive stakeholder engagement and launched public consultations on a proposed policy on continuous oversight of pesticides
- consulted with the Science Advisory Committee on Pest Control Products (SAC-PCP) on a proposed science literature strategy as part of the continuous oversight framework
- consulted with the SAC-PCP on the scientific soundness of the proportional effort criteria and categorization approach

A gradual, multi-year phase-in of the new approaches will allow the PMRA to measure the effectiveness of these policies, and their impact.

The PMRA's contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework

In December 2022, Canada, along with 195 other countries, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at COP15 (Conference of Parties). The KMGBF includes goals and targets intended to safeguard nature and halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

The KMGBF commits Parties to reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030 (Target 6) and reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half by 2030, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods (Target 7). Federal departments, including ECCC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, AAFC, and Health Canada are working together to identify initiatives, processes, and measures to support Canada's collective efforts to meet these targets.

The PMRA is actively involved in targets 6 and 7.

Under Target 6, the PMRA is working with the CFIA to reduce the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) and minimize their impact. In particular, PMRA is seeking to reduce regulatory-related financial barriers to addressing IAS and incentivizing the private sector to expand the market availability of alternative (to conventional pesticides) biopesticide control options for IAS, and maintain registrations of products with limited profit potential but high value for managing IAS.

The PMRA is co-leading the Target 7 implementation plan with ECCC and AAFC. In 2023–2024, the PMRA:

- established an internal expert working group to identify potential indicators to monitor risk
- conducted early engagement with partners, including the SAC-PCP and the Pest Management Advisory Council (PMAC) on the approach to characterize risk and actions to support Target 7
- contributed to the ECCC-led National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2030
- represented Canada at an expert meeting to develop the methodology for the international headline indicator on overall pesticide risk, convened by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

In 2023–2024, the PMRA continued to identify potential actions and measures to support Canada's collective efforts to meet Target 7, including through:

- proposed updates to the Pest Control Product Regulations
- accelerated review streams for lower-risk pesticides
- developing frameworks for water monitoring and pesticide use information
- maintaining robust science-based decision making and regulatory oversight
- working with other federal partners to develop an inventory of government data that will support monitoring and reporting of progress towards commitments



Strengthening science-based decision making

As experts in their fields, PMRA scientists recognize the importance of continuously incorporating new science, evidence, and technology into their assessments.

This kind of information allows PMRA scientists to:

- better understand and manage risks
- update and refine the information required to register pesticides and to keep them registered
- include independent data in addition to registrant data to evaluate pesticide risks
- prepare to evaluate innovative pesticide technologies as they arise, so Canadian growers can access them

In 2023–2024, the PMRA continued to build capacity in gathering and incorporating new information into the assessment and regulation of pesticides, including water monitoring data, pesticide use information and ongoing collection and analysis of incident reports.



Transformation highlight

Progress on the Canadian water monitoring program for pesticides

When PMRA scientists perform risk assessments for regulatory decisions, information on pesticide properties and use is considered. This information is incorporated in models to estimate environmental levels once a pesticide is applied in the environment.

Historically, pesticide levels in water have been measured and monitored across Canada in a variety of ways. The data generated has routinely been used to evaluate risks to the environment and human health.

However, available data were largely insufficient for pesticide regulatory decision making. This is partly due to inconsistencies in how the information is collected and interpreted within different organizations and programs.

The PMRA is working towards expanding knowledge on pesticide concentrations detected in Canadian waterways, providing reliable and relevant real-world data to inform science-based regulatory decisions.

Water monitoring pilot program

In collaboration with Health Canada's Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB) Pesticide Laboratory, ECCC and AAFC, the PMRA implemented a two-year water monitoring pilot program from April 2022 to March 2024.

This pilot was conducted to:

- better inform pesticide re-evaluations and special reviews
- increase public understanding and awareness of pesticides in Canadian water
- explore how to effectively design a collaborative national-scale monitoring program and develop a framework for pesticide water monitoring programs in Canada
- expand partnerships and improve collaboration

In 2023–2024, the PMRA worked with ECCC, AAFC and provincial and local partners, including members of Indigenous communities, to collect samples at 107 surface water sites and 81 groundwater sites across Canada.

The ROEB Pesticide Laboratory and AAFC's London Research and Development Centre Laboratory analyzed approximately 4500 water samples for 202 currently registered pesticides and 3 transformation products. The University of Guelph also analyzed approximately 270 of these samples for an additional 5 currently registered pesticides and 4 transformation products.

The PMRA continued to collaborate with ECCC to make this water monitoring data accessible to the public through the Government of Canada Open Data portal. The PMRA also collaborated with the Public Health Agency of Canada's Health Infobase to launch a dashboard that provides interactive data summaries and comparisons of pesticide concentrations against human health and aquatic life reference values.

The PMRA is analyzing the data from the pilot program to identify any issues that may require further review or investigation (for example, additional sampling), the results of which may lead to consideration of additional regulatory action to reduce risks to human health or the environment.

Draft water monitoring framework

Another key element of the PMRA's work related to water monitoring was the development of a framework for pesticide water monitoring programs in Canada. It is expected that this guidance will lead to greater consistency in water monitoring programs for pesticides across the country and, therefore, produce data that is reliable, relevant and scientifically robust to better inform pesticide risk assessment and management decisions.

In 2023–2024, work continued on the development of this framework and a draft was posted for public consultation on 21 March 2024, with a target of spring 2025 for the final version of the framework¹.

The guidance and recommendations outlined in this framework will supplement and strengthen existing programs through collaboration and partnerships.



The PMRA has collected information from registrants about the volume of sales of pesticides in Canada since 2007 (pesticide sales reports for 2021 and earlier).

This information has been valuable in the review or re-evaluation of pesticides to understand the presence and impact of each pesticide in the Canadian marketplace. However, sales information does not include information about how pesticides are ultimately used.

Pest management practices are evolving with the advancement of science and technology, making the inclusion of "real-world" pesticide use information even more important in the PMRA's pesticide reviews. A Pesticide Use Information Framework is being developed to:

- renew and expand the evidence base for assessing risk and value of pesticides
- incorporate current use practices into regulatory decisions on pesticides
- increase public confidence by improving transparency and public access to pesticide use information
- support other Government priorities (for example, GBF Target 7)

Since 2021, the PMRA has engaged broadly with federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) partners, academia, user groups, non-governmental organizations, and pesticide manufacturers to identify information sources, discuss data management and access strategies, identify and discuss concerns, and inform the development of the framework.

¹ Health Canada. Framework for pesticide water monitoring programs in Canada. 27 June 2025. Available from : <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/corporate-plans-reports/framework-pesticide-water-monitoring-programs.html>.

In the fall of 2023, the PMRA launched a custom survey/study with select fruit and ornamental crop growers, and began working with the greenhouse sector, to identify and gather use information that is needed to refine pesticide risk assessment and pest management practices in these sectors.

A summary of the information gathered through engagement, and a draft of the Pesticide Use Information Framework² are targeted to be published in 2024–2025.

Summary of incident reporting and its role in risk management

A pesticide incident is any unintended effect to humans, animals (includes pets, livestock or wildlife) or plants resulting from exposure to a pesticide. This includes pesticide packaging failure that may result in human exposure or injury, or effects seen in scientific studies (for example, a new hazard or increased risk).

Pesticide registrants are required by law to report all incidents related to their products to the PMRA. Canadians may also report pesticide incidents either to product manufacturers or directly to the PMRA using the Voluntary Incident Reporting Form available in the Public Engagement Portal.

Monitoring incident reports for unanticipated effects or changes in a pesticide's risk profile is an important aspect of managing the risks of pesticides. Priority is given to all incident reports that are serious in nature, involve multiple people or animals, or indicate a recurring problem with pesticide exposure. Incident reports may trigger a special review of a pesticide. If risks are identified, various protective actions are developed with the aim to reduce pesticide exposure and the occurrence of adverse effects. Such actions may include improved label language or user education and outreach initiatives.

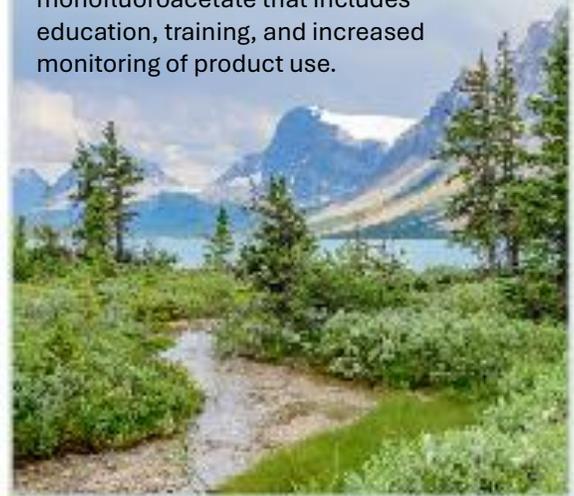
2 Health Canada. Pesticide use information framework development: Towards a strategic approach – What We Heard report from government partners and stakeholders (2021-2023). Available from : <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/corporate-plans-reports.html>.

The use of incident reports in the re-evaluation of predacides

Health Canada has recently completed the re-evaluation of the predacide uses of strychnine and sodium monofluoroacetate, restricted pesticides used in Alberta only, to protect wildlife, livestock, and people from predators (wolves, coyotes and black bears) or skunks.

Incidents involving the deaths of non-target animals from primary and secondary poisoning were considered during the re-evaluation of the predacide uses of strychnine and sodium monofluoroacetate. The severity of effects in non-target organisms along with the use of incident reports and use reports formed the basis of the regulatory decisions for these two active ingredients (Summary of RVD2024-04, *Re-evaluation decision for predacide uses of strychnine and sodium monofluoroacetate and their associated end-use products*).

These decisions included cancellation of all uses of strychnine, and a Product Stewardship Program for users of sodium monofluoroacetate that includes education, training, and increased monitoring of product use.



When the PMRA reviews new active ingredients or conducts re-evaluation of older pesticides, a complete analysis of all incident reports involving that pesticide is integrated into the risk assessment. In cases where action is taken to reduce risk, the PMRA monitors incident report data to determine if the actions were effective in managing the identified risk.

In 2023–2024, a total of 1467 pesticide incidents were submitted to the PMRA. Details of these reports can be found on the Pesticide Product Information Database webpage on the pesticides section of Canada.ca.

In summary:

- 942 incidents occurred in Canada
- 430 incidents relevant to Canadian products occurred in the United States
- 95 incidents were related to findings in scientific studies that may indicate new hazards or increased risk
- 187 distinct pesticide products were involved across the reported incidents
- 1073 reports involved cats or dogs
- 124 incidents involved human exposure

Minor adverse effects (for example, itchy skin) were frequently reported in animals following the use of companion animal products. Human exposure incidents included applying a pesticide product to a residential site or contacting an area treated with a pesticide. The severity of effects reported in people were frequently minor, of short duration and resolved quickly without medical treatment.

To report a pesticide incident, visit the Report a Pesticide Incident webpage on the pesticides section of Canada.ca.

Advancing innovation – Leveraging cutting-edge tools and research

The PMRA's regulatory framework was developed in recognition of the importance of innovation in sustainable pest management. The PMRA works with stakeholders and domestic and international partners to monitor and examine scientific and technological developments that may apply to pesticide regulation. This cooperative approach builds the PMRA's capacity to facilitate, contribute to and incorporate innovation in our work.

Development and application of artificial intelligence tools in regulatory processes

Project DATA for screening scientific literature

In 2023–2024, the PMRA worked with other branches in Health Canada through Project DATA (Data Annotation Training Sets for AI Tools) to develop and test artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the rapid screening and review of scientific literature for regulatory purposes.

This project has explored ways to train AI tools to search, label and extract information from published literature. Health Canada used large data sets from different branches to train the AI tools for gathering evidence for regulatory assessment purposes.

As part of the project, a scientific literature data annotation guide and dictionary were developed to give consistency to the searching, labelling and extraction of information from published literature across the involved Health Canada programs, which will benefit PMRA's scientific evaluations and create efficiencies in data reviews.

Project Cognit.io for streamlining product assessment

In September 2023, the PMRA became the new sponsor for Project Cognit.io, an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the product assessment process.

The project seeks to explore targeted and strategic applications of various machine learning algorithms and technologies throughout the product assessment process to support scientific evaluators and reduce review time required for complex products without compromising accuracy or consistency.

The resulting AI engine will streamline the search, tabulation and analysis of evidence, enabling scientific evaluators to make faster, more consistent regulatory decisions. The project has already demonstrated feasibility in a test environment and aims to expand its capabilities and features for real-world application, ultimately benefiting other Health Canada programs facing similar challenges.

Authorizing research on pesticides

Researchers looking to generate test data on human health and environmental effects or value using unregistered pest control products or registered products outside of the labelled use pattern are subject to the Pest Control Product Regulations for research. There are three main categories of research described in the Pest Control Product Regulations:

- Exemption – The research is small scale and meets a defined set of criteria. The researcher does not need to make an application to the PMRA and can proceed with the research.
- Research notification – The research is small to medium scale and meets a set of criteria. The researcher must notify the PMRA by submitting an application for Notification
- Research authorization – The research is larger scale or does not meet exemption or notification criteria. The researcher must make an application to the PMRA for Authorization. Research can be authorized for up to three years.

The number of applications for research that the PMRA receives can vary from year to year. Applications may be received in one year but completed in the next, depending on the time allotted for review of the application under the PMRA's Management of Submission Policy.

In 2023–2024, the PMRA completed and approved applications for 18 research notifications. Out of 89 applications for research authorization, the PMRA approved 84. Seventeen research authorization applications were related to the use of drones to apply pesticides.

Remote piloted aircraft systems (RPAS, or drones) for pesticide application

The use of drones to apply pesticides has been gaining interest and popularity with growers around the world. This method has the potential to be less expensive, more precise and lower risk than other conventional aerial application methods; however, inconsistencies in model designs present challenges in developing a framework to assess the risks and value of this method in all the possible application scenarios.

To understand the implications of this new technology on human health and the environment, since 2019, the PMRA and its scientists have been working with AAFC and its Pest Management Centre (PMC), registrants, the industry-convened Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Application System Task Force and other partners to examine various data on drone pesticide application such as:

- spray drift
- effectiveness of this application method for specific pesticides
- health data such as occupational exposure
- considerations related to mixing and loading pesticides
- crop residues

The PMRA has also been working with international partners to gather the necessary data to evaluate and regulate this method of application for different pesticides by:

- co-leading the development of a mechanistic model for estimating spray drift in cooperation with the OECD Working Group on Pesticides Drone/Unmanned Aerial Spray Systems Subgroup
- working with the North American Remotely Piloted Aerial Application Systems (RPAAS) working group and the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to share developments in drone research, best practices and regulation

In September 2022, the first pest control product amendments to allow the use of drones for pesticide application were approved in Canada.

As of 31 March 2024, there were three registered products with RPAS application on the label, and all three were commercial class biopesticides.

Products registered for application by drone will have "Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems" and/or "RPAS" on the label. If these terms do not appear on pesticide labels, the use of drones to apply pesticides is not permitted under the *Pest Control Products Act*.

Efforts to reduce animal testing in regulatory science

The PMRA remains committed to reducing, refining and replacing the need for animal studies, whenever possible. To this end, the PMRA continues to be an active participant in various international initiatives organized by the OECD, the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI), the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

These efforts are focused on advancing the development and acceptance of new approach methodologies (NAMs) to reduce the need for testing on animals while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment.

The PMRA's ongoing involvement includes examining and refining alternative approaches for assessing eye and skin irritation, dermal sensitization, immunotoxicity, and developmental neurotoxicity, as well as reducing reliance on dog studies and expanding the applicability of physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modelling.

The PMRA is also contributing to global initiatives focused on developing frameworks for incorporating NAMs into the health and environmental safety evaluation of agrochemicals, such as the HESI committees on Transforming the Evaluation of Agrochemicals and Next Generation Ecological Risk Assessment aimed at exploring challenges and opportunities related to alternatives to chronic fish testing.

In 2023, the PMRA provided the Canadian regulatory perspective on the use of NAMs in pesticide assessments through presentation and discussions at various fora, including the Society of Toxicology 62nd Annual Meeting and the 12th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences. The PMRA committed to participating on a multi-jurisdictional organization committee, led by the PETA Science Consortium International, aimed at developing and publishing an educational webinar series on NAMs for ecotoxicity.

Double-stranded ribonucleic-acid-based pesticides

Double-stranded ribonucleic acid (dsRNA) is part of a process called RNA interference (RNAi) that can "silence" specific genes. This process could potentially be harnessed for pest control, for example, by targeting a protein that may be vital for the survival, reproduction or growth of a pest. Also, when a pest resists a conventional pest control product, dsRNA could be used to take away proteins that allow the resistance to take place.

The PMRA published an Information Note in January 2024 to communicate the regulatory status of dsRNA-based pesticides, and to direct potential applicants to PMRA's pre-submission consultation services and research authorizations process. The PMRA has been granting research authorizations for experimental trials of dsRNA pesticides since 2016. Currently, no dsRNA-based pesticides are registered in Canada.

Gene-edited organisms for pest control

The use of gene-edited organisms in pest control is another area of emerging science that will require targeted regulatory oversight. No gene-edited macro-organisms are registered as pest control products in Canada.

While dsRNA-based pesticides do not modify the genome of target pests, gene-edited organisms for pest control would be intended to modify, replace, or eliminate the population of the target pest and could spread beyond the site of application.

Recognizing the complex scientific, bioethical and regulatory challenges associated with gene-edited organisms in pest control, the PMRA approached the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) to do an examination of the regulatory implications of this technology.

The CCA is a not-for-profit organization that convenes experts in their respective fields to assess the evidence on complex scientific topics of public interest to inform decision making in Canada.

In November 2023, the CCA published *Framing Challenges and Opportunities for Canada*, which provides an overview of the potential uses of genetic pest-control technologies and articulates how their potential risks might inform their responsible development, deployment, and oversight.

This advice and expertise will inform the development of a framework to regulate gene-edited pest control products.

Assessment of pesticides for use in vertical farming applications

Vertical farming involves the production of crops grown indoors on vertically stacked or inclined layers using appropriate media and relying largely on artificial lighting. Currently, no pesticides are registered for use for vertical farming in Canada.

In January 2024, the PMRA distributed a Vertical Farming Stakeholder Questionnaire to capture an overview of the vertical farming industry. The insights will enhance our understanding of vertical farming practices and inform the development of our strategy to support the safe and effective use of pesticides in vertical farming.

We distributed the questionnaire to owners and operators of commercial vertical farms across Canada with help from Provincial Minor Use Coordinators. The questionnaire gathered general information on typical vertical farming practices in Canada, including:

- facility structure and lighting
- crop types and volume
- types and severity of pest infestations
- types of worker tasks, time spent on tasks, and use of personal protective equipment
- water management

For more information on vertical farming and pesticides read “Information Note: Vertical farming and pest control products” on the pesticides portion of [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).

International collaboration for global impact

As a recognized leader in pesticide regulation, the PMRA participates in a variety of international efforts to manage the risks of pesticides worldwide. The PMRA advocates for regulatory cooperation and harmonization focusing on science-based decision making that prioritizes health and environmental protection.

In North America, the PMRA continues to collaborate with its partners under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) as part of the Technical Working Group on Pesticides.

In November 2023, Canada hosted the Annual Meeting of the North American Trilateral Technical Working Group on Pesticides in Ottawa, Ontario. Stakeholders, regulatory authorities, and growers took part in this hybrid meeting to discuss updates on various topics, such as Maximum Residue Limit alignment, joint-reviews, and the evaluation of new technologies.

The PMRA is also the responsible federal authority for meeting the obligations of, and for ongoing participation in, the Stockholm Convention as it pertains to pesticides. PMRA scientists lend their expertise to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) by reviewing the scientific basis for decisions to identify substances as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and by making recommendations on how these substances can be managed globally.

In 2023, the committee determined that the previously registered pesticide chlorpyrifos met the POP criteria, and the PMRA is contributing to the committee’s risk management evaluation of this pesticide. Registration of chlorpyrifos was cancelled in Canada in 2023.

The PMRA also provides expertise to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to participate in international negotiations toward the elimination of POPs at the global level. In 2023, the COP listed the pesticide methoxychlor and two industrial substances for global elimination. All pesticidal uses for methoxychlor were discontinued in Canada in 2005.

The PMRA is the responsible federal authority for meeting the obligations of, and for ongoing participation in, the Rotterdam Convention, as it pertains to pesticides. PMRA experts also provide scientific support to the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) and the COP of the Rotterdam Convention, by actively reviewing submissions against established criteria for listing substances to the Convention. In 2023, the CRC determined that the pesticide chlorpyrifos and one industrial substance (mercury) met the criteria for listing under the convention, and the COP listed the previously registered pesticide terbufos (not permitted for use in Canada since 2012) to the convention, making its trade subject to prior informed consent.

The PMRA worked with Health Canada colleagues and ECCC partners in negotiating a Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) through the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The framework includes targets and resolutions pertaining to pest management, management of pesticides and agricultural production practices, and was adopted in the fall of 2023.

The PMRA is active in several OECD initiatives, including the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee, the Working Party on Pesticides (WPP) and the Working Party on Biocides (WPB). In 2023–2024, PMRA participated in discussions related to microbial pesticide hazard test guidelines; New Approach Methods (NAMs) for reducing animal testing in pesticide assessments; the identification of residues, metabolites and degradation products; pollinator protection; and new technologies such as drones.



Improving transparency, engagement and trust in Canada's approach to pesticide regulation

The PMRA recognizes that transparency and engagement is critical to strengthening public trust in regulatory decisions about pesticides. The PMRA continually works to improve communication with the public, stakeholders, and government partners through bilateral and multilateral engagement, and through new and long-standing committees, events, outreach materials, and information and applications on the pesticides section of Canada.ca.

What we know about the pesticide concerns of people in Canada

The PMRA receives feedback from stakeholders and people in Canada through a wide range of touchpoints, including:

- correspondence
- comments on public consultations
- petitions
- social media
- The Pest Management Information Service (InfoServ)
- targeted surveys
- meetings and events

Comments, concerns and information from these sources are considered in the development of communications products and activities.

Correspondence statistics 2023–2024

In 2023–2024, the PMRA processed more than 4200 inquiries and requests through correspondence and the Pest Management Information Service (InfoServ). These mechanisms provide PMRA staff with the opportunity to respond directly to specific concerns of people in Canada, and to monitor trends that can signal the need to improve how we communicate about certain topics.

While correspondence tends to come primarily from the public either directly or through Members of Parliament (73%), the Pest Management Information Service predominantly handles registration-based inquiries from registrants and industry (62%).

Glyphosate and neonicotinoids continue to be among the top topics addressed in public correspondence with PMRA. In 2023–2024, the PMRA also received correspondence related to MRLs, predacides, and the Science Advisory Committee.

Table 1 Sampling of public and stakeholder inquiries

Public and stakeholder inquiries 2023–2024			
Source	Number of inquiries	Top recurring subjects raised	Stakeholder types
Correspondence, including petitions, MP requests, Parliamentary process requests	101	Glyphosate (Roundup) Neonicotinoids & Pollinator concerns Predacides and concerns for animal welfare/humane use of pesticides Specific pesticides (for example, chlorpyrifos, pentachlorophenol fludioxonil) MRLs and food safety Science Advisory Committee on Pest Control Products (SAC-PCP)	General Public 57% MP on behalf of constituents 16% Registrants 9% Agricultural 7% Non-government organizations 5% Provinces/Territories 3% Indigenous <1% Academia <1% Federal government <1%
Pest Management Information Service (Infoserv) – Call Centre	4,143	Pesticide registration technical queries 63% Publication requests 14% Compliance concerns 6% Human health & safety 6% Non-PMRA issues (redirected to other government departments) 3% Environmental concerns <1% PMRA general/website queries <1%	Registrants/applicants 62% General public/consumer 11% Federal government 4% Provincial/territorial government 4% Growers 2% Non-government organizations 2% Commercial applicators 1% Municipal government, foreign government, academia: <1%

Note: The numbers do not add up to 100% as only the top categories are shown.

Public opinion research

Public opinion research can generate valuable information about the concerns, beliefs, and knowledge of a population, and help target communication and outreach efforts. In 2016, the PMRA developed the first iteration of a survey designed to measure public confidence and trust in Canada’s approach to pesticide regulation. This survey was repeated with adjustments in 2019 and 2023.

A report on the outcomes of the third round of public opinion research, “Awareness and Confidence in Canada’s Pesticide Regulatory System”, was published in June 2023. This round of research compared 2023 results to those of 2019 and 2016, and also sought views on key transparency initiatives of the PMRA’s transformation activities.

To improve Health Canada’s understanding of Indigenous perspectives, the survey included 200 individuals identifying as Indigenous Peoples, and a dedicated online focus group session was held.

Awareness and confidence in Health Canada’s approach to pesticide regulation

- 39% of respondents and 37% of Indigenous respondents are aware that Health Canada assesses the safety of pesticides before they can be registered (30% in 2019, 31% in 2016)
- 66% of respondents and 59% of Indigenous respondents are confident that Health Canada does a good job of protecting **human health** from the risks of pesticides (health/environment combined: 64% in 2019, 57% in 2016)
- 62% of respondents and 56% of Indigenous respondents are confident that Health Canada does a good job of protecting the **environment** from the risks of pesticides (health/environment combined: 64% in 2019, 57% in 2016)
- 60% of respondents and 52% of Indigenous respondents are confident that Health Canada keeps pace with **modern science** in pesticide decisions (51% in 2019, 48% in 2016)

Attitudes towards pesticides

- 38% of all respondents and Indigenous respondents feel adequately informed about pesticides (32% in 2019, 27% in 2016)
- 50% of respondents and 51% of Indigenous respondents believe they can use pesticides safely if required (49% in 2019, 52% in 2016)
- 72% of respondents and 69% of Indigenous respondents always read the label when using pesticides (74% in 2019, 74% in 2016)
- 53% of respondents and 51% of Indigenous respondents accept that pesticides are necessary and serve a purpose (49% in 2019, 51% in 2016)

Information sources

Top information sources consulted by respondents seeking information about pesticides included:

- the Internet (47%) (51% of Indigenous respondents in 2023) (41% in 2019, 36% in 2016)
- garden centres (30%) (33% of Indigenous respondents in 2023) (31% in 2019, 29% in 2016)
- hardware store (23%) (28% of Indigenous respondents in 2023) (24% in 2019, 19% in 2016)

Top websites consulted for information about pesticides:

- Google (70%) (74% of Indigenous respondents in 2023) (71% in 2019, 64% in 2016)
- pesticide product websites (37%) (40% of Indigenous respondents in 2023) (38% in 2019 and 2016)
- Health Canada website (30%) (30% of Indigenous respondents in 2023) (27% in 2019, 24% in 2016)

Public consultation awareness and participation

- awareness of public consultations on pesticide decisions has risen from 12% in 2019 to 22% in 2023 (21% of Indigenous respondents in 2023)
- 18% of respondents and 28% of Indigenous respondents participated in a pesticide decision public consultation
- 50% of respondents and 57% of Indigenous respondents indicated that they would participate in consultations
- 38% of respondents and 30% of Indigenous respondents said they would not, citing a lack of scientific knowledge as their main deterrent

The PMRA continues to develop targeted strategies to improve public awareness, participation and trust in the pesticide regulatory process.

Updates on improving science communication

In 2021, the PMRA established the first formally trained unit of science communicators to improve public awareness, understanding and trust around pesticide regulation and decision making. The team has led various initiatives to identify and prioritize the information needs of the public, and to develop products and establish procedures that will improve the transparency of pesticide regulation in Canada.

In 2023–2024, the Science Communication team collaborated with scientists across the PMRA to test whether adding clear, plain language explanations to our public consultation and decision communications could improve understanding of our decision-making processes. This test included training scientists on best practices related to science communication, and the co-development of accessible web content for 4 published decisions:

- Proposed registration decision on Cyclaniliprole 50SL
- Proposed special review decision on fosetyl-aluminum
- Proposed re-evaluation decision of *S*-metolachlor and *R*-enantiomer
- Re-evaluation decision for pre-herbicide uses on strychnine and sodium monofluoroacetate

Based on the positive feedback received from people in Canada, stakeholders, and partners on these 4 published decisions, the agency is continuing to add accessible plain language communications to certain decisions.

To support improved public understanding of the science that underlies pesticide regulatory work, the PMRA:

- published a blog post on The Science of Pest Management in Canada
- published 6 plain language web pages on Pesticide assessments in Canada, including links to more guidance and policy documents
- published a blog post on Collaborating for safer food and stronger agriculture
- collaborated with the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum to develop a training session that better equipped staff to answer visitors' questions about pesticides in Canada

Recognizing the importance of user feedback and experience, the PMRA worked with Health Canada's Communication and Public Affairs branch to:

- conduct user testing on web content to ensure understanding of key points and inform our work
- redesign home/landing web pages for an improved user experience

In response to user feedback, the PMRA redesigned three key webpages to improve navigation and searchability for users to facilitate public participation in ongoing consultations:

- Consultations
- Decisions and updates
- Public Registry

The PMRA also participated in producing a video about the Health Canada pesticide laboratory's role in the water monitoring program for pesticides.

Case study: Communications around maximum residue limits (MRLs)

In 2021, the PMRA received a high volume of correspondence from the public regarding a proposed increase to the maximum residue limits (MRL) for glyphosate for certain imported commodities.

A maximum residue limit is the highest amount of pesticide residue that may remain on or in food when a pesticide is used according to the label directions. MRLs are set well below a level that can cause any harm. MRLs are set on all foods sold in Canada, whether grown in Canada or imported from other countries.

2021 pause on proposed MRL increases

In August 2021, the Government of Canada put a pause on proposed increases to MRLs on pesticides in response to public concerns.

This pause allowed the PMRA to improve transparency on MRLs, in line with our mandate. The PMRA aimed to enhance stakeholder and public understanding about MRLs and the science behind setting them.

2023 announcement lifting the pause

In June 2023, the PMRA lifted the pause on proposed increases to MRLs following review of public consultation feedback, and engagement with the Science Advisory Committee on Pest Control Products, the external Technical Working Group on MRLs and the Pest Management Advisory Council.

The SAC-PCP recommended that the proposed MRL (PMRL) consultation documents should clearly describe:

- PMRA action to ensure the safety of people in Canada and the environment
- toxicology reference values and definitions
- information related to dietary risk assessments
- information about the OECD MRL calculator and user guide

These recommendations have been incorporated into in PMRL documents since June 2023. For more details about SAC-PCP's advice and recommendations regarding the scientific communication of maximum residue limits please visit Health Canada's SAC-PCP webpage on the second question.

Improved communication about MRLs

After conducting a thorough review of feedback from stakeholders and the public, the PMRA took action to improve communication about how MRLs are set, including:

- a plain language fact sheet
- a new suite of web pages on MRLs
 - how MRLs are set
 - MRLs outside of Canada
 - an Infographic on MRLs in Canada
- Infographic: Confidence in what we eat
- Video: Maximum Residue Limits for pesticides in Canada
- a science communication checklist to improve the consultation documents that explain proposed MRL changes, containing:
 - the basis for a proposed decision, including the MRL change and affected food(s)
 - plain-language information on pesticides, active ingredients and regulatory history
- user testing and Public Opinion Research with members of the public on the MRL infographic

Since MRLs are an important global trade issue, the PMRA has shared its enhanced MRL communications approach with international partners and stakeholders including:

- Federal Food Safety and Nutrition Research Forum, April 2023
- World Trade Organization Thematic Session on Risk Communication, Misinformation and Disinformation, November 2023
- North American Trilateral Technical Working Group on Pesticides, November 2023

Updates on enhancing access to pesticide information and data

Confidential test data

Companies that want to register a pesticide in Canada must provide test data (in other words, scientific or technical information respecting the health or environmental risks or the value of a pest control product) to the PMRA for evaluation. This data, along with data from other sources, is evaluated by PMRA scientists, who conduct risk and value assessments leading to decisions on whether the pesticide can be used in Canada and under what conditions.

Data requirements depend on the nature of the product and its intended uses, and can include toxicology related to human health, bystander and occupational exposure, food residue trials, environmental toxicology and fate, as well as information supporting the efficacy, crop tolerance and benefits of the pesticide.

Under section 43 of the *Pest Control Products Act*, any person can submit an application to the PMRA to inspect confidential test data (CTD). To do so, they must include an affidavit or statutory declaration that states the purpose of the inspection of the CTD and that the person does not intend to use the CTD, or make the CTD available to others, to register a pest control product in Canada or elsewhere, or to amend a registration.

PMRA has heard from stakeholders that the conditions regarding the inspection of CTD under section 43 of the *Pest Control Products Act* present challenges for individuals to perform independent research and reanalysis of the evidence underlying PMRA's regulatory decisions.

Further to this feedback, an 80-day consultation on a Notice of Intent (NOI2023-01) took place from 20 June 2023 to 8 September 2023. This NOI proposed, among other things, facilitating access to confidential test data, including for research and re-analysis purposes.

Summary of stakeholder engagement and advisory committee activities

When it comes to pesticides, everyone is a stakeholder. Whether you are a manufacturer, grower, environmentalist or a consumer, you have a stake in how pesticides are regulated.

The PMRA consults the public on all major regulatory decisions. In 2023–2024, the PMRA held 54 public consultations, and processed 244 comments.

Stakeholder consultation sessions may be held ad hoc on specific topics as required, or may be regularly scheduled with grower groups or industry organizations that are more highly impacted by PMRA's work.

Transparency policy on stakeholder engagement activities

As part of our overall commitment to improved transparency, the PMRA initiated a new policy in 2023–2024 to share more information with the public about engagement with stakeholders.

Currently, Health Canada publishes information online about meetings and engagement activities with stakeholders in which views, opinions and information are exchanged to inform the development of policies, guidance, regulations or legislation on pesticides.

Presented in a simple, accessible table format, it includes information on the date, subject and purpose of the meetings and correspondence. The titles of any documents provided during meetings are also published. The documents listed in the table are accessible to members of the public upon request, for the purpose of ensuring greater transparency of PMRA's development of policies, guidance or regulations related to pesticides.

The intended outcomes of this new approach are to improve public trust, openness and transparency around stakeholder engagement activities and support Government of Canada objectives for transparency.

Federal/Provincial/Territorial committee on pest management and pesticides

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT-CPMP) is an intergovernmental and interdepartmental forum for sharing information and fostering cooperation to support efficient and coordinated pesticide regulation and sustainable pest management across Canada.

The Committee consists of representatives from all provinces and territories, typically including a representative from the agricultural and environmental ministries. The Committee also includes members from the Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB), and federal partners, AAFC, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

The FPT-CPMP is co-chaired by the Director General of PMRA's Policy and Operations Directorate and a representative from a province/territory (PT). The PT co-chair rotates on an annual basis. For 2023–2024, the co-chair was the representative from Saskatchewan.

The FPT-CPMP typically meets bi-monthly, with one annual meeting. In 2023–2024, there were 6 meetings, in addition to the annual meeting held in Saskatoon in September 2023.

At the annual meeting, the PMRA provided program updates, including updates on transformation, the Global Biodiversity Framework, the water monitoring program, as well as regulatory, policy, and science updates. Committee members and other federal program partners also provide regular updates on regulatory, policy, and science.

Pesticide education and training committee

The Pesticide Education and Training Committee is a sub-committee under FPT that works to harmonize pesticide education and training standards across the country. The Committee includes representatives from academic institutions that collaborate with provinces/territories to deliver pesticide training and certification (for example, Lakeland College in Alberta).

In 2023–2024, a workplan was developed to update training materials and modules to reflect the most current knowledge requirements for certification in specific areas, including agriculture and soil fumigation.

Agricultural stakeholder engagement unit

PMRA's Agricultural Stakeholder Engagement Unit was established to provide meaningful engagement with stakeholders to arrive at informed, science-based post-market decisions. Although primarily focused on the agricultural sector, the unit also works with other sectors to improve the understanding of the current post-market review process. To this end, the unit organized a workshop in September 2023 for industry stakeholders (registrants and applicants) providing a detailed overview of current processes.

The unit works closely with minor use growers in Canada to provide presentations on pesticide regulation, organize farm tours and obtain information needed for PMRA to conduct post-market reviews.

Following a decision made in December 2022 related to pesticides used as preservatives in paints and coatings, the unit actively worked with stakeholders to build awareness of the outcomes of the decision. This included publication of an infographic targeted at professional painters who use airless sprayers, containing tips to reduce exposure to paint preservatives. This builds on existing work the unit has been leading under the Coatings and Adhesives Working Group with the coatings and adhesives sector.

The unit has also been working with industry members and pesticide manufacturers to communicate and execute substantial label changes required for products containing pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide following re-evaluation decisions in March 2023.

Annual stakeholder information session

On 13 February 2024, the PMRA held a virtual stakeholder information session on pest control product regulatory highlights and priorities, with the theme of “Integrating Transformation into PMRA’s Day-to-Day Work”. The event included a presentation from leads on the Transformation Task Force, including an overview and achievements to date of the PMRA’s Transformation Agenda, the integration of Transformation initiatives into operational activities, and next steps.

More than 110 participants were in attendance from industry, academia, consumer and grower groups and associations, health and environmental non-government organizations, and other government departments.

Pest Management Advisory Council

The Pest Management Advisory Council (PMAC) is a multi-stakeholder group that fosters communication and dialogue among stakeholders and with the PMRA, and provides advice to the Minister of Health on policies and issues relating to the federal pest management regulatory system. The Council's role is advisory. Decision making remains the responsibility of the PMRA.

At its meeting in September 2023, the PMRA updated PMAC members on PMRA’s budget, the post-market review program, five-year trends for Notices of Objection, Transformation updates, MRLs, and proposed changes to the terms of reference for the committee.

The Council supported the ongoing initiatives under PMRA’s Transformation Agenda and presented several recommendations to the Minister, which can be reviewed in the September 2023 meeting summary report.



Transformation highlight

Science Advisory Committee on Pest Control Products

The Science Advisory Committee on Pest Control Products (SAC-PCP) was established in 2022 to provide Health Canada with independent scientific advice pertaining to the regulation of pesticides.

The SAC-PCP is composed of scientists from across Canada, and supported by a Community of Specialized Experts called upon to provide advice on an as-needed basis, to support to the Committee on specific scientific issues or assessments under consideration.

To support the transparency of the work of SAC-PCP, portions of every meeting are open to the public, and meeting-specific information is published online including the agenda, summary of the Committee's recommendations, and the PMRA's corresponding responses.

In 2023–2024, the SAC-PCP met four times. Advice, recommendations and general feedback were sought concerning cumulative effects in environmental risk assessments, the scientific criteria to inform the Proportional Effort framework for pesticides, and the Water Monitoring Program.

SAC-PCP feedback received for the National Water Monitoring Program for Pesticides included:

- use of data on pesticide use and environmental monitoring
- use of data from registrants to estimate the toxicity of pesticide mixtures
- advice on the development of exposure scenarios
- evaluating the uncertainty of model outputs by comparing estimates with real-world data
- clearly defining criteria and considerations that inform decisions
- considering approaches taken in other jurisdictions

The SAC-PCP was presented with two science questions, for advice and recommendations, regarding the scientific criteria to inform the Proportional Effort framework for pesticides and the development of a framework for the environmental assessment of cumulative effects of pesticides.

Topics covered during the discussion on the Proportional Effort framework for pesticides included:

- how the Proportional Effort Framework differs from the PMRA's current approach
- how specific proportional effort criteria for human health and the environment would be weighed and prioritized
- how the framework will apply to novel ingredients/products
- how specific vulnerable populations will be protected
- how often the criteria would be reassessed
- how the Proportional Effort Framework will be shared

The Proportional Effort policy will incorporate the feedback and the accepted recommendations from the SAC-PCP.

The discussion period surrounding the science question on the development of a framework for the environmental assessment of cumulative effects of pesticides focused on:

- developing standardized and transparent scenarios to assess risk for environmental cumulative effects (CE)
- the need to define CE and consider other stressors in the environment
- using a trait-based approach using one species for CE
- revising the tiered approach for risk assessments
- explaining CE with regards to formulated mixtures
- using computational methods for CE
- lessons learned from CE in health risk assessments

For more details on the recommendations and advice from the SAC-PCP, summaries, along with PMRA's responses, are posted online to Health Canada's SAC-PCP webpage as they become available.

Consulting on regulatory amendments

Proposed amendments to the Pest Control Products Regulations following extensive stakeholder consultation on the *Pest Control Products Act*

In 2022, to gather stakeholder views on whether possible amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act* were required to achieve the objectives of transformation, the PMRA launched consultations on a targeted review of the *Pest Control Products Act* through a discussion document published on Canada.ca.

Furthermore, the PMRA held 40 meetings on the *Pest Control Products Act* review with a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- academia
- grower groups
- pesticide manufacturers
- Indigenous organizations
- non-governmental organizations
- international, provincial and territorial partners

In response to the input gathered through this process, the PMRA proposed a series of regulatory amendments. An 80-day consultation on a Notice of Intent (NOI2023-01), which outlined the following proposed amendments, took place from 20 June 2023, to 8 September 2023:

- facilitate access to confidential test data, including for research and re-analysis purposes;
- increase transparency for MRL applications for imported food products;
- give the Minister of Health the explicit authority to require submission of available information on cumulative effects on the environment;
- require the Minister to consider cumulative effects on the environment during risk assessments where information and methodology are available; and,
- strengthen consideration of species at risk by giving the Minister the explicit authority to require registrants and applicants to submit information on species at risk.

The PMRA has analyzed the comments from the NOI2023-01 consultation, with pre-publication in *Canada Gazette*, Part I as the next step.³

Cost recovery

Under government policy, federal departments must review their fees from time to time. Periodic reviews help determine whether existing fees and performance standards are still appropriate and reflect actual costs to deliver the pesticide regulatory program effectively.

The PMRA is looking at the appropriateness of existing fees and charges. The current fees do not reflect the department's post-market regulatory costs to support, for example, scientific re-evaluations of registered pesticides and compliance and enforcement activities. Taxpayers are also assuming an increasing economic burden. The PMRA held preliminary consultations with key stakeholders on a proposal to update fees for pest control products from January to April 2024. This set of proposed amendments focuses on the annual charge.

Feedback received during these preliminary consultations will be used to inform the development of proposed amendments to the PCP Fees and Charges Regulations.

³ As of September 2025 this regulatory package is paused.

This Annual Report summarized the accomplishments of the initial phase of PMRA's transformation in 2023-24. In the coming years, the Agency will continue to advance initiatives aimed at modernizing business processes, improving transparency and better informing regulatory decisions. PMRA looks forward to communicating ongoing progress in future Annual Reports, including developments related to the following initiatives:

- advancing a final policy on Continuous Oversight;
- undertaking consultations on a draft Proportional Effort Framework, developing a proportional effort categorization tool, and testing and refining AI-based literature search criteria;
- conducting ongoing water sample collection in both surface and groundwater across Canada and presenting a final version of the Framework for Pesticide Water Monitoring Programs in Canada;
- pilot testing of a Pesticide Use Framework;
- facilitating public access to the science that forms the basis of regulatory decisions about pesticides and making regulatory decisions about pesticides easier to understand; and
- optimizing the PMRA's online content, including online summaries of meetings with stakeholders for transparency.

In all of these efforts, PMRA remains committed to independent, objective, and evidence-based decision-making with the end goal of protecting human health and the environment.



Financial profile

2023–2024 Funding and revenue (in millions of dollars)	Total
A-Base	\$26.5M
Revenue – Application Fees (\$6.1M) and Annual Charge (\$10.6M)	\$16.7M
Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership	\$4.3M
Chemicals Management Plan (CMP)	\$5.3M
<i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</i> Modernization	\$0.4M
Strengthening the capacity and transparency of the pesticide review process	\$15.7M
Departmental IT Investment	\$3.5M
Total PMRA Fiscal Year 2023–2024	\$72.4M

Financial profile includes employee benefit plan (EBP) and is per ARLU/main estimates.

The Revenue amounts reported are revenue actuals collected (includes employee benefit plans - EBP).

The cost recovery regime for pesticides is currently under review.

The PMRA received \$4.3 million through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership initiative to support the registration of minor use products. As a result, newer, more environmentally sustainable, and more modern products have been made available to Canadian producers, which helps sustain Canada’s competitive position globally.

Through Canada’s Chemicals Management Plan, PMRA received \$5.3 million to re-evaluate older pesticides, improve risk management approaches through Incident Reporting and Sales Reporting regulations, and contribute to the development of scientific and regulatory approaches with other jurisdictions on high-priority issues. For more information, please consult the Chemicals Management Plan webpage.

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* Modernization / Bill S-5 Treasury Board Submission funding for the PMRA was \$434 000 in fiscal year 2023–2024.

Strengthening the capacity and transparency of the pesticide review process Treasury Board submission funding for the PMRA was \$15.7 million in fiscal year 2023–2024.

Appendix

Appendix Table 1 Product submission categories and service standards for pre-market applications

Submission category	Service standard in days
Category A	
New Active ingredients or integrated system products, their related end-use products and manufacturing-use products; major new use of registered pest control products; maximum residue limits for an unregistered active ingredient; and user requested minor use registrations (URMUR).	
Conventional chemicals and import MRLs for an unregistered active ingredient	665
Reduced risk, other biopesticides, non-conventionals, non-straight chain lepidopteran pheromone (NSCLP)	555
Microbials, and URMUR for all pesticide types (conventional chemical, reduced risk, microbial, other biopesticides, non-conventionals, NSCLP)	470
Straight chain lepidopteran pheromone (SCLP), including URMUR	285
Applications with atypical timelines (joint reviews, tailgaters, renegotiated timelines, synchronized timelines, coordination with re-evaluation)	Variable
Category B	
New pest control products containing registered active ingredients; an amendment to existing pest control products (for example, product chemistry, labelling); Emergency Registration; the addition of import MRLs for previously assessed active ingredients.	
Conventional Chemicals (including emergency use) and new import MRL for previously assessed active ingredient	425
Reduced risk, other biopesticides, non-conventionals, NSCLP (including emergency use)	360
Microbials and SCLP (including emergency use)	240
Streamlined applications (application rate changes, tank mixes, new pests, or changes to level of control)	158
Applications with atypical timelines (joint reviews, tailgaters, renegotiated timelines, synchronized timelines, coordination with re-evaluation)	Variable

Submission category	Service standard in days
Category C	
Product registrations and amendments with no data requirements. These applications involve minor label or formulation reviews, such as product registration based on registered precedent products.	
New / changes to product labels; addition of approved minor use; similar product	240
New / changes to TGAI, ISP, MA or EP chemistry; administrative changes; administrative re-instatement	180
Applications with atypical timelines (tailgaters, renegotiated/ synchronized timelines, coordination with re-evaluation)	Variable
Category D	
Submissions within particular programs	
Registration renewal	284
Registration / amendment to registration of active ingredient to be used in pest control product manufactured for export only	46
Master copies	42
Private labels	10
Own Use Import Equivalency and Permits*	70 (Equivalency)
	30 (Permits)
Grower Requested Own Use Equivalency and Permits*	TBD (Equivalency)
	30 (Permits)
Discontinuations*	45
Category E	
Authorizations and notifications for research in Canada	
Research authorization for new technical grade active ingredients	159
Research authorization for new uses of registered active ingredients	69
Research notification for research carried out in Canada	30
Category F	
Notification	
Registration and amendments to registered pest control products via notification	45

Submission category	Service standard in days
Category L Submissions to register or amend products where the applicant wishes to use or rely upon data provided by another registrant.	
Equivalency and data compensation assessment of end-use product and manufacturing concentrate with partial data package (conventional chemical)	425
Equivalency and data compensation assessment of active ingredient, end-use product and manufacturing concentrate with no data (all product types)	365
Equivalency and data compensation assessment of end-use product and manufacturing concentrate with partial data package (reduced risk, other biopesticide, non-conventional, NSCLP)	360
Equivalency and data compensation assessment of end-use product and manufacturing concentrate with partial data package (microbial and SCLP)	240
Applications with atypical timelines (tailgaters, renegotiated/ synchronized timelines, coordination with re-evaluation)	Variable
Regulatory Decision*	45
Requests to extend the exclusive use protection period based upon minor uses*	240
Category P Pre-submission Consultations	
Pre-submission Consultations excluding those for Joint Reviews and Subject to Registration inquiries*	80

*Submissions not subject to the *Service Fees Act* (in other words, no fees)

TGAI – technical grade active ingredient; ISP - integrated system product; MA - manufacturing concentrate; EP – end-use product

Appendix Table 2 New active ingredients registered in 2023–2024

	New active ingredient	End-use product (s)	Product type	Product category	Uses/Sites
1	Florpyrauxifen (present as benzyl ester)	GF-3206 Herbicide	Herbicide	Conventional	Hazelnut, rangeland, permanent grass pastures, non-cropland areas (such as roadsides, railroad and utility rights-of way), non-irrigation ditch banks, natural areas and grazed areas
		ProcellaCOR FX Herbicide			Freshwater
		Restore NXT Herbicide			Pasture and rangeland
		Milestone NXT Herbicide			Rangeland, permanent pasture, rights-of way, industrial and non-crop areas
		GF-3301 Aquatic Herbicide			Freshwater
2	GS-omega/kappa-Htxx-Hv1a	Spear-LEP	Insecticide, Acaricide	Biopesticide	Fruit trees, cranberries and vegetables
		Spear T			Greenhouse vegetables, Ornamentals grown in greenhouses and high tunnels, Cannabis grown in greenhouses or other enclosed structures, Fruit Trees and Berries grown outdoors or in high tunnels
3	1-Aminocyclopropane carboxylic acid	VBC-30452 SG Plant Growth Regulator	Plant Growth Regulator	Biopesticide	Apples
		Accede SG Plant Growth Regulator			Apples
4	<i>Plutella xylostella</i> granulovirus (PlxyGV) isolate GV-0020	Plutex	Insecticide	Biopesticide	Canola, and brassica head and stem vegetables
5	Diflufenican	SC500	Herbicide	Conventional	Field corn, seed corn, and soybeans
		SC617			Field corn and seed corn
		SC600			Soybeans

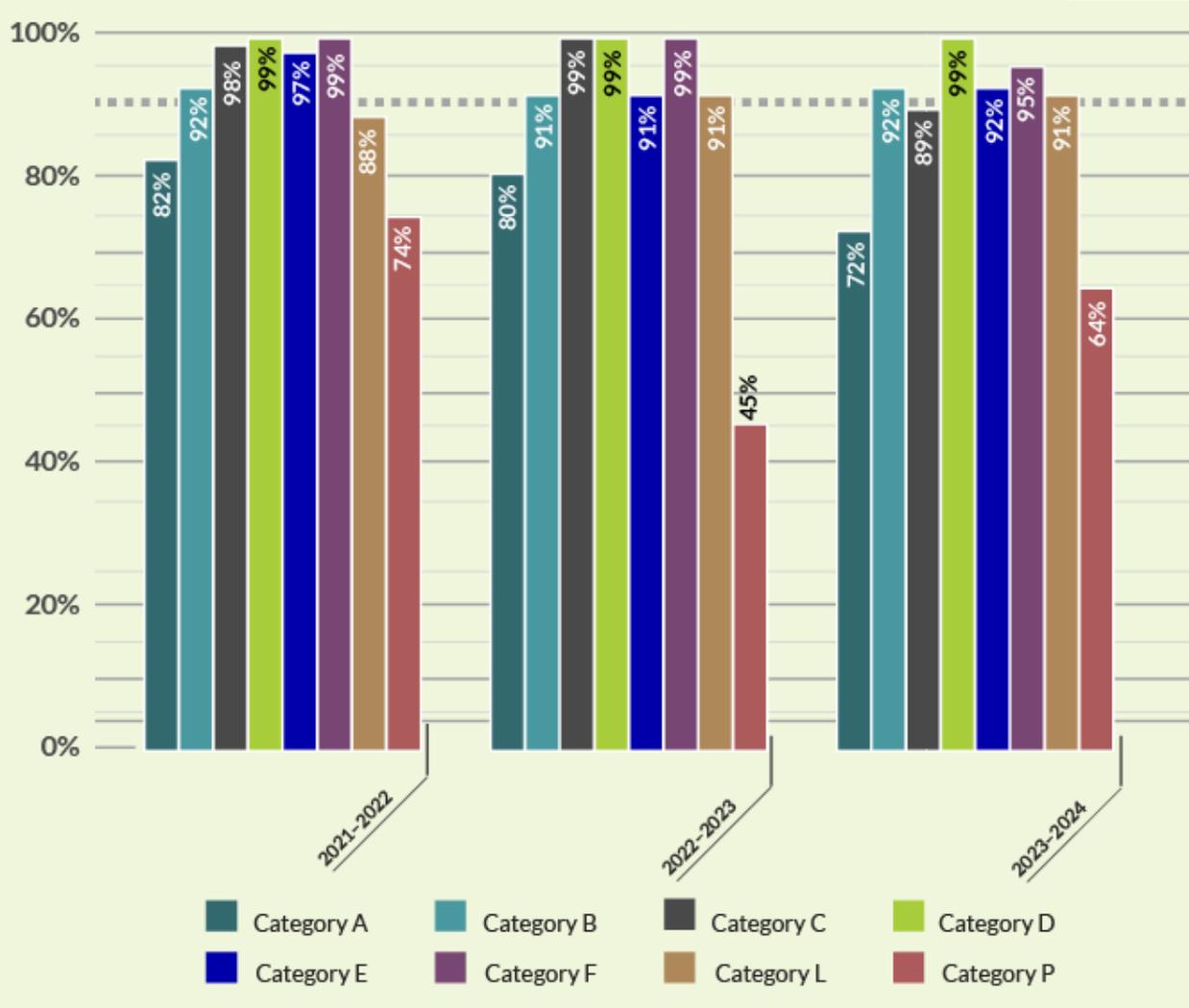
Appendix Table 3 Re-evaluation/special review documents published in 2023–2024

Active ingredient	Document number	Summary of decision or proposed decision	Number of impacted end-use products
Re-evaluation decisions			
<i>Neodiprion abietis</i> Nucleopolyhedrovirus and Nucleopolyhedrovirus for Douglas-Fir Tussock Moth	RVD2023-11	Acceptable for continued registration. Label amendments are required to meet current standards for human health and the environment.	3
<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i> Strain PFC2139	RVD2023-12	Acceptable for continued registration. Label amendments are required to meet current standards for human health and the environment.	2
(Z)-9-Tricosene	RVD2023-13	Acceptable for continued registration. Label amendments are required to meet current standards for human health and the environment.	9
Available Chlorine, Present as Calcium Hypochlorite and Available Chlorine, Present as Sodium Hypochlorite	RVD2023-14	Acceptable for continued registration. Label amendments are required to meet current standards for human health and the environment.	84
1-Methylcyclopropene	RVD2023-15	Acceptable for continued registration. Label amendments are required to meet current standards for human health and the environment.	12
<i>Bacillus sphaericus</i> Strain 2362	RVD2023-16	Acceptable for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	3
1,3-Bis(Hydroxymethyl)-5,5-Dimethylhydantoin and 1- or 3-Monomethylol-5,5-Dimethylhydantoin	RVD2023-17	Acceptable for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	5
Dodecylguanidine Hydrochloride	RVD2024-01	Acceptable for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	6

Active ingredient	Document number	Summary of decision or proposed decision	Number of impacted end-use products
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (Strain QST 713) and <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> Strain MBI600	RVD2024-02	Acceptable for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	15
Quizalofop-p-Ethyl	RVD2024-03	Acceptable for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	17
Strychnine and Sodium Monofluoroacetate	RVD2024-04	Strychnine: Cancellation of all uses due to environmental risk concerns. Sodium monofluoroacetate: Acceptable for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	Strychnine: 2 Sodium monofluoroacetate: 1
Special review decisions			
Picoxystrobin	SRD2023-01	Acceptable for continued registration.	5
Potassium Dimethyldithio-carbamate	SRD2024-01	Acceptable for continued registration for certain uses. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health. Cancellation of other uses due to lack of data to assess exposure to humans.	24
Proposed re-evaluation decisions			
Azoxystrobin	PRVD2023-02	Proposed for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	42
Sodium Chloride	PRVD2023-03	Proposed for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	6
<i>Agrobacterium radiobacter</i> Strain K84	PRVD2023-04	Proposed for continued registration. Label amendments are proposed to meet current standards for human health.	1
Octenol	PRVD2023-05	Proposed for continued registration. Label amendments are proposed to meet current standards for human health.	7
S-Metolachlor and R-Enantiomer	PRVD2024-01	Proposed continued registration for certain uses. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect the environment. Proposed cancellation of other uses due to health risk concerns.	27

Active ingredient	Document number	Summary of decision or proposed decision	Number of impacted end-use products
Natamycin	PRVD2024-02	Proposed for continued registration. Label amendments are proposed to meet current standards for human health.	2
Methyl Bromide	PRVD2024-03	Proposed continued registration for certain uses. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect the environment. Proposed cancellation of other uses due to environmental risk concerns.	2
Foramsulfuron	PRVD2024-04	Proposed for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health and the environment.	3
Proposed special review decisions			
Fosetyl Aluminum	PSRD2023-02	Proposed for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect the environment.	6
Methyl Bromide	PSRD2024-01	Proposed for continued registration. Mitigation includes new/revised label statements to further protect human health.	2

Appendix Figure 1 Performance against review timelines for Category A, B, C, D, E, F, L and P submissions completed from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024



This figure shows the percentages of submissions by submission category that met their applicable review timelines outlined in the *Management of Submissions Policy* over the last three fiscal years.

All categories of pre-market submissions have a performance standard of 90% against the established review timelines for the different submission categories.

In 2023–2024, the PMRA’s pre-market performance results remained relatively stable compared to the previous year. Five of the eight categories of pre-market evaluations exceeded the 90% performance target in 2023–2024 compared to six of the eight in 2022–2023.

The pre-market evaluation categories that missed the 90% performance target in 2023–2024 were Category A (new active ingredients, major new uses and import maximum residue limits) at 72% (down from 80%), Category C (precedent-based applications) at 89% (down from 99%) and Category P (Pre-submission consultation requests) at 64% (up from 45%).

Category A performance was affected by a number of persistent factors, including high workload, complex science issues and poor submission quality. The PMRA has seen an increase in the need to renegotiate timelines to allow for the review of additional information required to make a regulatory decision, and is experiencing a doubling in the amount of time to finalize a registration decision after public consultation due to a substantial increase in the number of comments received from the public and other stakeholders.

Category C performance suffered due to receiving twice the number of applications; 1297 received in 2023–2024 compared to 603 received in 2022–2023. The increase was largely due to the requirement for Registrants to amend labels for products affected by PMRA Guidance Document, Tank Mix Labelling and by Re-evaluation Decision RVD2023-06, Pyrethrins and Its Associated End-use Products.

To assist applicants with the pesticide registration process, the PMRA offers a free pre-submission consultation process (Category P). PMRA works to meet a 90% performance target for these applications. The PMRA has experienced significant challenges in meeting this target over the last four years due to an exceptional surge in requests from applicants unfamiliar with the regulatory process, for pesticides and/or devices that were proposed to control, reduce, destroy or inactivate bacteria, viruses or other pathogens, and for requests relating to innovative products.