
Health Canada

Pesticide Compliance Program

Activity report 2024-2025



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Program description

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for promoting, verifying and enforcing compliance with the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA) and its Regulations. The primary objective of this legislation is to prevent unacceptable risks to the health and safety of individuals and their environment from the use of pest control products, more commonly known as pesticides. More specifically, the PCP aims to prevent unauthorized pesticides from being available on the Canadian market and to see that authorized pesticides are imported, manufactured, distributed and used in accordance with the conditions established by Health Canada.

The PCP is administered by Health Canada's Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch (ROEB). Its activities are supported by Health Canada's Pesticides Laboratory located in Ottawa.

The PCP provides oversight of all parties regulated by the PCPA and its Regulations, including registrants, manufacturers, importers, retailers, and users. As such, the Program's operational delivery is organized around four key sectors: Registrants, Importers, Retailers/Distributors, and Users.

The program conducts compliance promotion, compliance verification and enforcement activities:

- **Compliance promotion** activities include presentations, exhibits at trade shows, written articles, and the development and distribution of publications such as fact sheets and targeted information packages. These activities increase Health Canada's reach and provide important information to regulated parties, key stakeholders, and the people of Canada to foster compliance with the PCPA and its Regulations.
- **Compliance verification** is a process to assess compliance with the PCPA and its Regulations. It involves activities that include, but are not limited to, conducting inspections, collecting samples for analysis, and verifying available records. Compliance verification activities may be planned or reactive (conducted in response to complaints received). The PCP also verifies the admissibility into Canada of pesticides suspected to be in contravention of the PCPA and its Regulations.
- When required, **enforcement action** is taken against regulated parties to address identified non-compliance with the PCPA and its Regulations. Any contravention of the PCPA and its Regulations is considered a non-compliance. The PCP uses a range of enforcement tools including warning letters, compliance orders and seizure. Where appropriate, the Program can make recommendations to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada for prosecution. The PCP also issues notices of violation (NOV) under the

Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act (AAAMP Act) with warning or monetary penalty (the amount for businesses varies from \$1300 to \$10,000 per violation depending on the severity), and partners with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to refuse entry of unauthorized pesticides into Canada. The choice of enforcement actions reflects the severity of the risks posed by the identified contraventions. In some cases, multiple enforcement actions may be considered.

The delivery of compliance activities is prioritized based on a number of criteria including, but not limited to, potential risks to human health and the environment, compliance history, considerations such as observations from the field, information from Health Canada's Pesticides Regulatory Directorate (PRD) and provincial and territorial regulators, complaints received, and data analysis. Regulatory changes including the decisions made by the PRD through the re-evaluation and special review processes are also used to identify priority areas for compliance verification, as these processes can result in the cancellation of products or significant label changes that include new risk mitigation measures.

Compliance verification activities that support these regulatory changes focus each year on different pesticides and regulated party types within the various sectors. In 2024-2025, compliance verification priorities were targeted to sectors and activities affected by label changes and use cancellations recently implemented as a result of re-evaluation decisions (see Table 1).

Table 1: 2024-2025 Prioritized active ingredients for compliance verification.

Sector	Active ingredients targeted for compliance verification
Registrants	Chlorothalonil (RVD2022-17), Diodofon (SRD2022-03), Dazomet (RVD2022-14), Flufenacet (RVD2024-10), Folpet (RVD2022-16), Pyrethrins (RVD2023-06), Piperonyl Butoxide (RVD2023-07), and Strychnine (RVD2020-06).
Marketplace	Pyrethrins (RVD2023-06), Piperonyl Butoxide (RVD2023-07), Tetrachlorvinphos (SRD2021-01)
Agricultural Users	Chlorpyrifos (REV2021-04), Lambda-cyhalothrin (RVD2021-04), Naled (SRD2022-01), and Thiophanate-methyl (RVD2020-13). Phosmet (RVD2020-11), Cyromazine (RVD2021-08).
Non-Agricultural Users	Dichlorvos (RVD2020-08),

The PCP works collaboratively with international, federal, provincial and territorial regulators in a number of areas. This can include conducting joint inspections, delivering compliance promotion activities, participating in intergovernmental working groups, supporting provincial/territorial certification and/or licensing activities, and sharing compliance and

enforcement information on emerging pesticide issues and best practices. The dissemination of important regulatory information can also occur with support from industry associations and networks.

2024–2025 Results and Activities Summary

- The PCP responded to 457 inquiries from regulated parties and the public. Sixty percent of the inquiries were related to pesticide usage, such as the clarification of pesticide labels or confirmation of the registration status of pesticides. The remaining inquiries pertained to other topics, such as the importation and distribution of pesticide products.
- The program conducted 194 compliance promotion activities, including presentations to associations, exhibit booths at trade shows, and distribution of compliance promotion materials to regulated parties. Those activities included:
 - Ten information fact sheets were made available to inform regulated parties about key product use changes and label amendments resulting from re-evaluation decisions, as well as to promote compliance with key legislative requirements under the PCPA.
 - Eight information packages were sent to a variety of stakeholder groups to increase awareness about the legislative requirements under the PCPA that specifically apply to them.
- The program conducted 1031 compliance verification activities:
 - 595 planned inspections (including 24 targeted to previously non-compliant regulated parties) and 436 reactive compliance verification activities.
 - A total of 602 inspections (58%) identified at least one contravention to the PCPA and its Regulations which resulted in a non-compliant rating and the issuance of at least one enforcement response.
 - Of the compliance verification activities targeted to previously non-compliant regulated parties, 54% resulted in the identification of repeat or new contraventions.
- The PCP also made 2501 recommendations to CBSA in response to referrals of incoming shipments and 87% (2169) of these resulted in a recommendation for refusal of unauthorized pesticide entry into Canada.

The most common contravention identified in 2024-2025 was the importation of unregistered pesticide products. Other contraventions observed across regulated parties included the distribution, possession, and storage of unregistered pesticides; the use of pesticides inconsistent with the label directions; and failure to comply with sales reporting requirements of pesticide products.

A total of 2907 enforcement responses addressing single or multiple violations were issued to non-compliant regulated parties:

- 2824 warning letters, including 2330 warning letters issued to importers of unauthorized pesticides referred by the CBSA to the PCP.
- 34 compliance orders.
- 7 seizures and detentions.
- 3 notices of violation (NOV) with warning under the *AAAMP Act*.
- 39 NOV with penalty under the *AAAMP Act*, for a total value of \$392,000 in penalties.

Key activities and results by sectors

Registrant sector

Sector highlights	On March 31, 2025, there were 683 registrants in Canada. Registrants are responsible for pesticide registration with Health Canada's PRD and ensuring that the pesticides available in the Canadian marketplace meet the requirements of the PCPA and its Regulations and the conditions of registration.
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Registrant inspections

Registrants were targeted for inspection using selection criteria that include, but are not limited to, no history of inspection, compliance history, sales volume and the manufacturing or distribution of pesticides containing active ingredients that have recently undergone re-evaluations. Inspections verified adherence with the conditions of registration and that product marketplace labels were in compliance with the approved product label. In 2024-2025, registrants with pesticides containing the active ingredients Chlorothalonil, Diodofon, Dazomet, Flufenacet, Folpet, Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrins, and Strychnine were targeted for inspections to assess compliance to re-evaluation decisions. Registrants were also targeted for non-compliance with the *Pest Control Products Sales Information Reporting Regulations*.

A total of 223 inspections were conducted in this sector. Of these inspections, 199 were planned (including four targeted to previously non-compliant registrants) and 24 were reactive. A total of 201 out of the 683 registrants in Canada, 29% of all registrants, were inspected in 2024-2025. In each of the last three years, PCP has inspected over 20% of all registrants.

At least one instance of non-compliance was observed in 127 (57%) of the inspections conducted. The most common contraventions included failure to submit 2023 sales reports (PCPA 8(5)), packaging did not meet regulatory requirements and/or products did not have the approved label (PCPA 6(3)), list of manufacturing sites was different from the approved list (PCPA 6(2)), and distribution of unregistered pesticides (PCPA 6(1)).

Five of the 39 inspections targeting registrants of pesticides impacted by re-evaluation decisions had at least one instance of non-compliance observed (13%). Table 2 summarizes the contraventions observed in each re-evaluated targeted inspection rated as non-compliant in the registrant sector.

Table 2. Non-compliances observed in re-evaluation targeted inspections rated as “non-compliant”.

Active ingredient	# of non-compliant inspections	Contravention & Observation
Chlorothalonil	1	PCPA 6(2) Distribute contrary to conditions: • Product did not have the required accompanying information or material.
Dazomet	2	PCPA 6(2) Manufacturing contrary to conditions of registration: • Product did not have the approved label. • Use directions on product label were different from that on the approved label
Pyrethrins & Piperonyl Butoxide	2	PCPA 6(1) Distribution, including advertising, of pesticides after the last date of retail sale.

A total of 132 warning letters and 16 compliance orders were issued to the non-compliant regulated parties. Three notices of violation with penalty (total of \$26,000) were also issued under the *AAAMP Act*. One out of the four registrants targeted for previous non-compliance was again found non-compliant and escalated enforcement measures were taken.

Import sector

Sector highlights	The majority of pesticides used in Canada are foreign-made and imported into the country. The PCP conducts a range of compliance and enforcement activities within this sector to target shipments containing unauthorized pesticide, to prevent the entry of unauthorized pesticides into Canada and to take enforcement actions against non-compliant importers.
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Verification of commercial trade data

Commercial importation data and intelligence from the CBSA and other sources are used to gather information about suspected non-compliant commercial importers. Commercial importers are targeted for inspection based on factors including, but not limited to, the importer's compliance history and the known importation of unauthorized pest control products.

In 2024-2025, two commercial importers were targeted based on intelligence from CBSA. At least one instance of an unauthorized pesticide importation was identified for both inspections.

Inspections at border points

The PCP collaborates with CBSA to identify, examine and intercept shipments containing unauthorized pesticides. This includes a regular presence at each of Canada's three mail centres and other border points. In 2024-2025, the PCP received 2501 referrals of pesticide shipments from CBSA, 243 of which were commercial imports. Of the total referrals received, 2169 (87%) were refused entry into Canada for containing products not authorized for use in Canada (unlawful under the PCPA 6(1)). The majority of refused pesticides (93%) were for personal use.

Pesticide shipments originated from various countries with the majority originating from the United States (72%) and China (17%) and were purchased online. The common types of pesticides that were refused were insecticides (71%), including lawn care and structural pesticides, flea and tick control products, and personal insect repellents; vertebrate control pesticides (22%); herbicides (2%); devices (2%); fungicides (1%); antimicrobials (1%) and other miscellaneous pesticides (1%).

As a result of the PCP's collaboration with the CBSA, over 1485 kg of unauthorized pesticides and a total of 3508 units of unauthorized devices and miscellaneous unauthorized pesticide items were prevented from entering Canada in 2024-2025.

A total of eight follow-up inspections were conducted: six with importers whose products had been refused entry and two importers about whom complaints had been received. At least one instance of non-compliance was observed in 4 (50%) of the inspections conducted, including distribution of unregistered pesticides.

In addition to the entry refusals of unauthorized pesticides, 2330 warning letters and one seizure and detention notice were issued to importers attempting to import unauthorized pesticides into Canada. Health Canada issued four warning letters and three compliance orders under the PCPA and its Regulations, as well as two notices of violation with penalty (total of \$26,000) under the AAAMP Act in response to follow-up inspections with importers.

Marketplace sector

Sector highlights	There are thousands of retailers and distributors across Canada and from outside Canada that sell pesticides to Canadians through physical establishments, online presence, or a combination of both. The PCP verifies that only pesticides compliant with the PCPA and its Regulations are offered for sale in Canada.
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In 2024-2025, the PCP conducted on-site planned marketplace inspections at warehouse and/or distribution centres; international retailers; and county and rural municipal offices. Warehouse and/or distribution centre inspections focused on cancelled Pyrethrin, Piperonyl butoxide and Tetrachlorvinphos products. Inspections of retailers selling international products focused on pesticide products not registered in Canada. Inspections of county and rural municipal offices verified if pesticide products were registered and distributed in accordance with the PCPA and Regulations.

Overall, 408 inspections were conducted in physical establishments and online marketplaces. Of these, 157 were planned inspections (including nine targeted to previously non-compliant retailers) and 251 were reactive. Of the reactive compliance verifications conducted in the marketplace globally, 199 (79%) identified at least one contravention.

Marketplace inspections in physical establishments

At least one instance of non-compliance with the PCPA and its Regulations was identified in 60 (38%) of the planned marketplace inspections conducted in physical establishments. Three

retailers targeted for previous non-compliance were again found non-compliant. Escalated enforcement measures were applied to address the non-compliance.

Among the 47 planned warehouse and/or distribution centre inspections, 18 (38%) identified non-compliance related to the distribution of cancelled Pyrethrins, Piperonyl butoxide and Tetrachlorvinphos products (PCPA 6(1)).

Seventy-five inspections were conducted with retailers selling international products and 25 (33%) inspections resulted in non-compliance related to the distribution of unregistered pesticide products (PCPA 6(1)).

A total of 26 county and rural municipal offices were inspected, and 14 (54%) were found to be non-compliant. The most common contravention was for decanting pesticides, which is not in accordance with conditions of registration (PCPA 6(2)). In addition, violations were noted for storage and/or possession of unregistered pesticides (PCPA 6(1)).

Online marketplace

The volume of pesticides offered for online sale continues to increase. The number and variety of pesticides available through e-commerce continue to expand, as does the diversification of e-commerce platforms and models. Proactive compliance monitoring of the online marketplace and addressing high risk pesticides are ongoing activities of the PCP in this sector.

The PCP pursued its direct work with the major online platforms and marketplaces in Canada (representing more than 95% of online pesticides available to Canadians) and with new ones to help prevent unregistered pesticides from being advertised and distributed to Canadians. By doing so, specific non-compliant listings were removed, filters were implemented to restrict access to Canadian purchasers or remove Canada as a shipping destination. Some platforms went to the extent of removing pesticides as a category altogether. A total of 128 inspections involved validating pesticide postings on online platforms. Of these, 114 (89%) inspections were deemed non-compliant with the PCPA and its Regulations.

Overall, 259 (63%) marketplace inspections conducted identified at least one instance of non-compliance where the most common violation was the possession and distribution of unregistered pesticides (PCPA 6(1)). A total of 6 seizure and detention notices were issued amounting to 28,185 products removed from the marketplace. In addition, 157 warning letters and 8 compliance orders were issued under the PCPA and its Regulations and 24 notices of violation with penalty (total of \$240,000) were issued under the *AAAMP Act*.

User sector

Sector highlights	This sector consists of both agricultural and non-agricultural users. There are over 190,000 agricultural operations and approximately 42,000 non-agricultural users (e.g., licensed applicators and industrial users) in Canada. The agricultural user subsector is composed of growers of food and non-food crops (e.g., specialty and large field crops, greenhouses, floriculture, berries, tree fruit, animal husbandry, forestry, aquaculture, outdoor nurseries, and agriculture aerial application). The non-agricultural user subsector includes landscape and structural pest management professionals (PMPs), vegetation management applicators, arborists, golf course applicators and industrial users. The large volume and diversity of this sector make it an important focus for compliance promotion and compliance verification activities.
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Agricultural Users

In 2024-2025, commercial ground and aerial pesticide applicators, beekeepers and growers of potatoes and grapes were selected for inspections as a result of history or suspected non-compliance or the use of recently re-evaluated pesticides.

In total, 189 agricultural users were inspected across Canada. Of these inspections, 115 were planned, including two inspections targeting previously non-compliant users, and 74 were conducted in response to complaints.

Overall, 104 (55%) inspections in this sector were found to have at least one instance of non-compliance. Commonly observed violations included the use of pesticides inconsistent with the label directions such as application rates, location or site of use, and not respecting the use of personal protection equipment (PCPA 6(5)(b)); and possession, storage and use of unregistered pesticides (PCPA 6 (1)). Two of the agricultural users targeted for previous non-compliance were again found non-compliant. Escalated enforcement measures were applied to address the non-compliance.

Overall, 96 warning letters and four compliance orders were issued to non-compliant agricultural users. Three notices of violation with penalty (total of \$30,000) were also issued under the *AAAMP Act*.

Non-Agricultural Users

The majority of non-agricultural users are Pest Management Professionals (PMP) certified and/or licensed by provinces or territories to apply pesticides in a variety of non-agricultural settings (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial) to control a variety of indoor and outdoor pests.

PMPs continued to be a focus for planned activities for fiscal year 2024-2025, based on risks associated with the non-compliant use of pesticides as well as on the large number of complaints received about possible exposure to pesticides stemming from the application of pesticides by PMPs in or near residential or public areas.

Overall, 201 inspections were conducted on non-agricultural users in 2024-2025. Of these, 124 planned inspections, including nine re-inspections of previously non-compliant regulated parties, were completed with PMPs (property management, golf courses and residential structures). Seventy-seven inspections were conducted in response to complaints.

A 53% non-compliance rate was observed with 106 inspections identifying at least one instance of non-compliance. Seven out of the nine PMPs targeted for re-inspection were found non-compliant and resulted in escalated enforcement measures.

The most common contraventions noted were the use of registered pest control products inconsistent with the label directions (PCPA 6(5)(b)), such as higher than approved application rate, location or site of use not approved, targeting of pests not included on the label, not respecting bait station requirements, and not respecting required PPE; and possession of unregistered products (PCPA 6(1)).

This resulted in the issuance of 105 warning letters and three compliance orders under the PCPA and its Regulations. In addition, three notices of violation with a warning and seven notices of violation with penalty (total of \$70,000) were issued to three non-agricultural users under the *AAAMP Act*.

The PCP continued to work to improve compliance within this sub-sector and undertook compliance promotion activities focused on new risk mitigation measures on labels following the re-evaluation of specific pest control products. [Fact sheets](#) promoting label requirements for commercial rodenticides applications, responsible pesticide use for landlords and property managers and changes resulting from the re-evaluations of pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide were distributed to the industry. Information packages were distributed to public health inspectors outlining what they may encounter and how to report suspected non-compliant pesticide use when inspecting establishments such as restaurants, long-term care facilities, hotels and food-processing plants where pest management activities have been carried out.