

Government News

Applicators living in states which have not passed laws requiring a pesticide certification program that complies with EPA standards will have their training and certification programs administered by a regional office of the EPA.

Applicators in this situation will have to keep records of how they dispose of pesticides and take examinations every two years to renew their certifications. Nebraska and Colorado will probably fit into this category, according to Andrew Ceraker, senior regional officer in the EPA's office of pesticide programs.

The chances are over 90 percent that prospective pesticide registration application will be rejected, according to Edwin L. Johnson, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs of the EPA.

Johnson gave two basic reasons: 1) The applicant "cannot submit or cite data to fulfill the current requirements of the registration (Section 3) regulations; or 2) the data upon which (the applicant) wishes to rely is claimed to be a trade secret by the data developer, who refuses to let the applicant rely on the information."

The conditional registration and the Sections 10 and 3(c)(1)(D) amendments approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee were cited by Johnson as solutions to these problems.

The North Carolina Agriculture Department used a crisis exemption to apply methomyl. It was used in several counties to control outbreaks of the fall armyworm on coastal bermudagrass.

A rebuttable presumption against registration (RPAR) notice against pesticides which contain cadmium is about to be issued by EPA, according to EPA sources. The EPA Carcinogen Assessment Group (CAG) cited studies which show a "statistically significant increase" in the incidence of prostatic cancer deaths among alkaline battery workers who had been exposed to cadmium for at least one year.

In addition, the CAG report said that cadmium salts "increase the frequency of point mutations and somatic chromosome aberrations" and "interact with and break DNA" among other things.

If issued, the cadmium RPAR will be the first RPAR to be issued on a natural substance. The RPAR would involve 30 registrants and 35 products -- all fungicides for turfgrass applications.

The EPA has issued three section 5 experimental use permits to Fisons corporation to allow use of 2,2-dimethyl-1,3 benzodioxil-4-yl methylcarbamate on turf to evaluate control of turf insects in Calif., Ill., Ind., Kansas, Md., Mass., Nebr., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.C., Ohio, Okla., Penn., and Texas. One permit allows use of 585 pounds of the pesticide on 308 acres, another allows 152 pounds on 76 acres, and the third also allows 152 pounds on 76 acres.