Wood Preservative Regulation and Registration in Canada

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Acquiring a label with the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is a scientific, legal, and administrative procedure. It requires extensive testing and review to determine the potential risks. Environmental and human risks posed determine value of pesticide. Testing and data are used and reviewed to determine the potential risks of the pesticide to humans and the environment

Ingredients of the pesticide is thoroughly examined along with the particular site or crop where it is to be used. The volume, frequency, and timing of its use is also tracked. Storage and disposal practices for the pesticide need to be concise and clear. PMRA must conduct assessment on human health and environmental effects of pesticides. Companies must provide data from studies to meet stringent testing guidelines in order to evaluate the potential for harm to humans, wildlife, fish, and plants (include non-target organisms). Short-term toxicity and long-term effects of exposure are assessed. Contamination of surface water or ground water from leaching, runoff, and spray drift are assessed. Environmental risk assessment is harmonized to US EPA and other regulatory systems. Combines environmental toxicology (hazard) and environmental fate (exposure).

An application will include the following:

- Service fees required by the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA)
- Forms describing the requested action
- Identity and quantity of all chemicals in the product
- Data on potential risks to human and environment health
- Proof that the product manufacturing process is reliable
- Labeling, including directions for use, contents, and appropriate warnings
- Evidence of meeting all legal and financial obligations

Once the application is completed and submitted, the next phase in the registration process begins, and that is the evaluation process. The evaluation process includes the evaluation of human health risks and the evaluation of environmental risks. PMRA assesses and evaluates the aggregate risks in human health. They also evaluate other human health risks by cumulative risks and occupational risks. Environmental risks are evaluated by assessing potential for ground water contamination and risks to endangered/ threatened species, and the potential for endocrine-disruption effects. A portion of the evaluation process includes the implementation of a risk assessment and peer review. PMRA reviews all the scientific data on the pesticide product and develop a comprehensive risk assessment that examine all human and environmental risks. The health and environmental risk assessments undergo a process of peer review by scientific experts. The evaluation process is concluded by a regulatory and risk management decision. The decision is based around the results of the risk assessment and peer review. The decision is also based on research of alternative pesticides that are already registered, review of any measures that are needed

to mitigate identified risks. Discussions with the applicant may be necessary if modifications to the product or labeling are required in order to mitigate risks. The registration is granted if no changes are needed or if the necessary modifications are accepted by the applicant. The PMRA data review is completed by 4 different groups within PMRA. These 4 groups include:

1. Environmental Risk Assessment
2. Health Evaluation
3. Laboratory Services
4. Value Assessments

A successful registration will generate a pesticide label that provides clear directions for the performance while minimizing risks. PMRA must approve all of the label language. The pesticide product labels are reviewed as part of the licensing/ registration process. The pesticide label is a legal document and it is a violation of federal law to use a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with label.