

to the public on March 20, 2000 (65 FR 14967) (FRL-6499-2) through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

The phosmet partial interim reregistration eligibility decision document and the benefits assessments for azinphos-methyl and phosmet were released to the public on September 13, 2001 (66 FR 47657) (FRL-6802-7) through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

EPA's next step under FQPA is to consider the cumulative risks of the organophosphate pesticides, which share a common mechanism of toxicity. The interim risk management decision documents on azinphos-methyl and phosmet cannot be considered final until this consideration of organophosphate cumulative risks is complete.

When the cumulative risks of the organophosphate pesticides have been considered, EPA will issue its final tolerance reassessment decision for azinphos-methyl and phosmet and further risk mitigation measures may be needed.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: November 20, 2001.

Jack E. Housenger,

Acting Director, Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 01-29558 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-34168B; FRL-6812-3]

Organophosphate Pesticide; Availability of Interim Risk Management Decision Document

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the interim risk management decision document for an organophosphate pesticide, pirimiphos-methyl. This decision document has been developed as part of the public participation process that EPA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are now using for involving the public in the reassessment of pesticide tolerances under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and the reregistration of individual organophosphate pesticides under the

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

DATES: The interim risk management decision document is available in the OPP docket under docket control number OPP-34168B.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lorilyn Montford, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8170; e-mail address: montford.lorilyn@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general, nevertheless, a wide range of stakeholders will be interested in obtaining the interim risk management decision document for pirimiphos-methyl, including environmental, human health, and agricultural advocates; the chemical industry; pesticide users; and members of the public interested in the use of pesticides on food. Since other entities also may be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet home page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. On the home page select "Laws and Regulations," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," and then look up the entry for this document under the "**Federal Register**—Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. In addition, copies of the pesticide interim risk management decision documents released to the public may also be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/status.htm>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control numbers OPP-34168B. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as

Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

III. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA has assessed the risks of pirimiphos-methyl and reached an Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (IRED) for this organophosphate pesticide. Provided that risk mitigation measures are adopted, pirimiphos-methyl fits into its own risk cup; its individual aggregate risks are within acceptable levels. Pirimiphos-methyl is used primarily on stored corn, sorghum grain, and seed, in cattle ear tags and for the fogging treatment of iris bulbs. Pirimiphos-methyl residues in food alone do not pose risk concerns. With mitigation reducing worker exposure to pirimiphos-methyl by requiring closed mixing and loading systems for admixture grain and seed treatment, and requiring additional personal protective equipment for workers, risk will not be of concern. Pirimiphos-methyl ecological risks are also below the Agency's level of concern.

The interim risk management decision documents for pirimiphos-methyl were made available through the organophosphate pesticide pilot public participation process, which increases transparency and maximizes stakeholder involvement in EPA's development of risk assessments and risk management decisions. The pilot public participation process was developed as part of the EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), which was established in April 1998, as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. A goal of the pilot public participation process is to find a more effective way for the public to participate at critical junctures in the Agency's development of organophosphate pesticide risk assessments and risk management decisions. EPA and USDA began

implementing this pilot process in August 1998, to increase transparency and opportunities for stakeholder consultation.

EPA worked extensively with affected parties to reach the decisions presented in the interim risk management decision documents, which conclude the pilot public participation process for pirimiphos-methyl. As part of the pilot public participation process, numerous opportunities for public comment were offered as these interim risk management decision documents were being developed. The pirimiphos-methyl interim risk management decision documents therefore are issued in final, without a formal public comment period. The docket remains open, however, and any comments submitted in the future will be placed in the public docket.

The risk assessments for pirimiphos-methyl were released to the public through a notice published in the **Federal Register** of January 8, 1999 (64 FR 1199) (FRL-6055-9), and March 29, 2000 (65 FR 16592) (FRL-6551-5).

EPA's next step under FQPA is to complete a cumulative risk assessment and risk management decision for the organophosphate pesticides, which share a common mechanism of toxicity. The interim risk management decision documents on pirimiphos-methyl cannot be considered final until this cumulative assessment is complete.

When the cumulative risk assessment for the organophosphate pesticides has been completed, EPA will issue its final tolerance reassessment decision(s) for pirimiphos-methyl and further risk mitigation measures may be needed.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

Lois A. Rossi,

Director, Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 01-29559 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-66297; FRL-6810-1]

Acephate; Receipt of Requests For Amendments to Delete Uses and to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Product Registrations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 6(f)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended, EPA is issuing a notice of receipt of requests by certain acephate registrants to amend their registrations for products containing O,S-dimethyl acetylphosphoramidothioate, or acephate, to terminate certain uses and voluntarily cancel certain acephate product registrations. The requests to cancel certain uses from the registrations will reduce residential risks which exceed the Agency's level of concern. EPA will decide whether to approve the requests after consideration of public comment.

DATES: Comments on the requested amendments to delete uses and cancel product registrations must be submitted to the contact person at the address provided under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** by December 28, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Kimberly Nesci Lowe, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8059; e-mail address: Lowe.kimberly@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. Although this action may be of particular interest to persons who produce or use pesticides, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the information in this notice, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?

You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet home page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the home page select "Laws and Regulations," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," and then look up the entry for this document under the "**Federal Register—Environmental Documents.**" You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

II. Acephate Registrant Requests to Amend Registrations

A. Background Information

Acephate is an organophosphate insecticide registered to control certain insect pests on a variety of field, fruit, and vegetable crops; in food handling establishments; on ornamental plants both in greenhouses and outdoors; and on turfgrass sites, including residential lawns, golf courses, sod farms, and industrial sites. Acephate is also registered for use in and around the home to control common household insect pests.

Annual domestic use is approximately 4 to 5 million pounds of acephate active ingredient per year. The vast majority of acephate usage is on agricultural and commercial ornamental plant use sites. Use in and around the home is a small fraction of total acephate usage. Acephate use in the home and on lawns is apparently somewhat self-limiting due to the pesticide's objectionable odor.

During development of the Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (IRED), EPA identified risk concerns for residents, including children, who contact treated surfaces in homes following indoor application. EPA also identified a risk of concern for young children playing on treated lawns. In order to address these concerns prior to completion of the IRED, Valent USA Corporation (Valent) and the other technical registrants notified EPA of their intent to formally request amendment of their registrations to delete these uses.

EPA will soon release the IRED, which further describes the risks associated with acephate uses in and around the home. The IRED also outlines EPA's other risk concerns and risk management measures adopted in the IRED to address them.

B. Request for Voluntary Cancellation of Certain Uses and Product Registrations

To reduce the risk posed to residents in treated homes and lawns, EPA discussed the matter with all technical acephate registrants and ultimately obtained general agreement on the merits of dropping certain uses. Accordingly, Valent and the other registrants of technical grade acephate products requested the voluntary deletion of the key uses and certain product registrations. End use product registrants also indicated a willingness to drop the same uses.

On October 15, 2001, Valent, the primary technical registrant supporting the reregistration of acephate, submitted a written request to EPA seeking to