

Pesticide Special Registration Reviews

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the lead state agency for pesticide and fertilizer environmental and regulatory functions in Minnesota under the Pesticide Control Law (Minn. Stat. Chapter 18B). One of those functions is state-level registration of pesticide products approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Historically, state registration focused on proper labeling, fee collection, registration enforcement and other requirements under federal and state law. Additional state-level review was conducted in response to specific post-registration enforcement or label concerns, or in response to regional environmental or human health concerns shared by other states. In 2006, and in response to a Minnesota Legislative Auditor's report, the MDA initiated an effort to broaden state-level review of pesticide registrations by routinely learning more about new registrations and conducting expanded reviews to better understand Minnesota-specific registration issues. The scope of these special registration reviews varies depending on the potential education, outreach and enforcement needs identified by the Department.

Learning More about New Pesticide Products

The MDA reviews new active ingredients (a.i.s) recently approved by USEPA along with currently registered pesticides that have significant new uses or have undergone a major label change.

In the process of completing a review, the MDA explores a variety of human health and ecological risk issues, and assesses laboratory analytical concerns for tracking potential misuse and non-target impacts. Information on projected crop use and efficacy is gathered from University Extension, user groups and others. Reviews may also include communication with USEPA or the registrant to request more information about identified concerns. Reviews can lead to an in-depth assessment of specific issues (see below). The MDA expects to review an average of 5 new a.i.s and several new uses or label changes annually.

The MDA reviews EPA human health and ecological risk assessment documents and other publicly available product information to learn more about new pesticide product issues:

- *Environmental fate/transport; product formulation.*
- *Projected use patterns; efficacy estimates.*
- *Label language (enforceability, consistency, understandability).*
- *Critical information related to aquatic life, drinking water, worker protection and other exposures of potential concern.*

In-depth Reviews of Products and Issues

At times, more in-depth reviews are necessary to provide stakeholders and the MDA Commissioner with more information about specific pesticide products and issues. These reviews vary in scope, but are not intended to be redundant of analyses and decisions reached by the USEPA during federal registration. When appropriate, the MDA collaborates with agency partners such as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to complete reviews.

In-depth reviews are initiated in a variety of ways. For example, if after reviewing a new pesticide product, the MDA determines that certain registration issues need additional assessment, the review can be expanded. An in-depth review might also be conducted to learn more about a pesticide topic of interest to the MDA, regulated clientele, state agencies or other stakeholders.

Recent specific examples of in-depth reviews include a [review of the corn herbicide atrazine](#) that involved significant collaboration with the MPCA and MDH, and a [review of insecticides commonly used to control Emerald Ash Borer \(EAB\)](#). These reviews resulted in a greater understanding of federal registration concerns and a variety of actions, including clarification of label provisions designed to protect the environment, enforcement-related education, applicator guidance and social network tools developed to enhance product stewardship, and other measures designed to minimize the impacts of pesticide use.

For more information about the MDA Pesticide Special Registration Review Program, contact staff in the Pesticide Management Unit at 651-201-6000