

NOTICE

Cancellation of old labels on products containing methomyl and instructions for users of products that may bear these labels

This notice is published under section 45A of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act, 1994* (Agvet Codes).

Background

Methomyl is a carbamate insecticide. It is registered for use in a range of vegetable crops including brassicas, legumes, peppers, potatoes, sweet corn and tomatoes. It was previously registered for use on lettuce to control *Helicoverpa* and Cluster caterpillar.

In 2006, a new set of methomyl residue data for hydroponic lettuce became available to the APVMA. The data indicated that methomyl residues in hydroponic lettuce were in excess of the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL), possibly leading to unacceptable dietary intake by consumers.

While the data to hand raised APVMA's concerns, no data were available to examine if a withholding period longer than the then current period of one day would mitigate the potential dietary intake risks. Although the data that raised concerns were collected from hydroponically grown lettuce, the APVMA considered that, in the absence of relevant data, the dietary exposure concerns were also applicable to field grown lettuce, and food crops grown in covered or protected situations such as glasshouses, greenhouses or plastic tunnels. Furthermore, the concerns were also applicable to the use of methomyl on leafy vegetables as the residue profile for lettuce was considered an indicator of the likely residue profile in other leafy vegetables.

Accordingly, the APVMA wrote to the registrants of methomyl products asking them to remove the use of the chemical on all lettuce, leafy vegetables and all food crops grown in covered or protected situations. The registrants modified their labels instructions to remove those uses. The registrants also applied to cancel all previously approved labels bearing these crops and situations. They put warning stickers on the product containers in the supply chain, and disseminated information to alert end users not to use methomyl in situations mentioned above. All the new product containers supplied carried the new labels.

Regulatory actions

The APVMA is satisfied that there are no valid reasons why it should not agree to the requests of the registrants to cancel the old labels. Accordingly, effective from 21 March 2007, the APVMA cancelled the old labels (shown in Table 1), under s42(1) of the Agvet Codes. Through this Gazette notice, the APVMA declares that subsection s45A(5)(a) of the Agvet Codes ceases to apply in respect of the products bearing the labels shown in Table 1. The usual two-year period is not applicable for the supply of product containers with old labels. Methomyl products containing the cancelled labels can be used, in accordance with the label instructions, on all crops listed on those labels except on hydroponically grown lettuce, leafy vegetables and on any food crops grown in protected situations.

Table 1. Old labels of methomyl products that do not contain adequate instructions and hence are cancelled.

Product registration number	Product Name	Label approval number
48910	Electra 225 Insecticide	48910/01 48910/0306 48910/20/0505 48910/200/0505 48910/0505
60658	Dupont Lannate L Insecticide	60658/5/0206 60658/10/0206 60658/20/0206 60658/200/0206 60658//0206
32032	Marlin Insecticide	32032/0102 32032/0103 32032/02 32032/03 32032/0499 32032/0600
47336	Lannate L Insecticide	47336/01 47336/0100 47336/0199 47336/0302 47336/0498 47336/0599 47336/0800 47336/1199 47336/3635
47469	Nudrin Insecticide	47469/03 47469/0400 47469/1199
47470	Nudrin 225 Insecticide	47470/02 47470/03 47470/0500 47470/0899 47470/1202

Related information

Note that all methomyl products which bear a currently approved label (modified as above to remove certain uses; see Table 2) can be used in accordance with those label instructions. Further, they can also be used in accordance with permit PER-9932 which was issued in March 2007 based on new data submitted to the APVMA. As noted above, the data which supported the issuing of the permit were not available in late 2006 when the APVMA was liaising with the registrants in relation to the deletion of uses on lettuce. The new data indicated that methomyl can be used on field-grown head and leafy lettuce without causing unacceptable dietary

exposure, provided the crop is not harvested until three days after application of the chemical; there were no new data on hydroponic lettuce. Based on the new data, the APVMA has raised the methomyl MRL in lettuce from 1 to 2 mg/kg. This revised MRL is a temporary MRL valid until 30 June 2008, pending the submission of a full residue data package to the APVMA. For further details of the permit uses, visit <http://www.apvma.gov.au/permits/permits.shtml>.

Table 2. Currently approved labels for methomyl products.

Product registration number	Product Name	Label approval number
48910	Electra 225 Insecticide	48910/20/0906 48910/200/0906 48910/0906
60658	Dupont Lannate L Insecticide	60658/5/1006 60658/10/1006 60658/20/1006 60658/200/1006 60658/1006
32032	Marlin Insecticide	32032/20/1006 32032/1006
47336	Lannate L Insecticide	47336/5L/0906 47336/20L/0906 47336/110L/0906 47336/200L/0906 47336/1000L/0906 47336/BULK/0906 47336/0906
47469	Nudrin Insecticide	47469/5L/0906 47469/20L/0906 47469/200L/0906 47469/BULK/0906 47469/0906
47470	Nudrin 225 Insecticide	47470/20L/0906 47470/200L/0906 47470/BULK/0906 47470/0906