Autumn 2018

OSR Herbicide Stewardship - FAQs

Q. What is the issue?

A. The future of many essential OSR herbicides e.g. metazachlor, carbetamide, propyzamide, quinmerac and chlorpyralid is under threat, given the levels detected in water destined for drinking.

Q. Why do we need to worry about it?

A. Not complying with the Water Framework Directive puts the continued authorisation of some important OSR herbicides under threat and may lead to regulatory restrictions in the future if action is not taken to address detections in raw water. The crop protection industry, the VI and water companies have joined forces to develop and implement stewardship for OSR Herbicides under the 'OSR herbicides? Think Water' brand.

Q. What about 'Metazachlor Matters' stewardship?

A. Best practice use of metazachlor products in OSR is as important as ever. The Metazachlor Matters messages, devloped by Adama and BASF, have been integrated into the 'OSR herbicides? Think Water' campaign in order to streamline stewardship messages for the agricultural industry.

Q.

A. How do OSR herbicides get into water?

Pesticides gets into water through two sources:

1. In the farm yard - handling/sprayer cleaning
a. This can be avoided by good operator practice, adopting VI guidance.

2. In the field - via surface run-off, field drainage
a. Rainfall events have a big impact. We cannot control the weather but we can reduce the risk.

Q.

A. What actions do I need to take to reduce OSR herbicides getting into water?

The following actions are key to reducing the risk of OSR herbicides reaching water:

1. Use www.wiyby.co.uk to find out if your land is in a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSgZ)

2. If you are farming in a DWSgZ, speak to your local water company catchment officer to understand the potential risk on a field-by-field basis, or speak to your agronomist

3. Implement best practice agronomy to help protect water, including:

Manage tramlines, pathways and gateways to minimise compaction and reduce the risk of surface water run-off.

Ensure all surface water adjacent to OSR fields is protected by at least a 6m vegatative buffer strip.

Before making applications, always refer to product specific labels and best practice advice, including the VI Water Protection Advice Sheets (WPAS) and the 'Metazachlor Matters' guidelines for products containing metazachlor and quinmerac.

ADAMA

METAZACHLOR MATTERS

OSR Herbicides? Think Water

Adama Agricultural Solutions UK Ltd. Unit 15, Thatcham Business Village, Colthrop Way, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 4LW. Telephone 01635 860 555. UKenquiries@adama.com.

Q. What are the specific recommendations for herbicides containing metazachlor and quinmerac?

A. The guidelines for application of herbicides containing metazachlor and quinmerac, developed by BASF and Adama as part of the 'Metazachlor Matters' campaign, still apply:

Dose

- The maximum dose rate for metazachlor in WOSR is 750g/ha (Label restrictions still apply)

Timing

- Land that is not drained
  - No timing restrictions
- Drained Land
  - Avoid application after 1st October
  - If soil/seedbed are favourable and drains are not flowing, applications can continue until 15th October
- Drained land in Drinking Water Safeguard Zones
  - No applications after 1st October.

To find out if you're in a Safeguard Zone go to the Environment Agency website - What's in your backyard? www.wiyby.co.uk

Q. What is a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone?

A. Areas in catchments (upstream) that influence the water quality at drinking water abstractions which are at risk of failing the drinking water protection objectives.

These designated Safeguard Zones are where action to address water contamination will be targeted, so that extra treatment by water companies can be avoided.

There are 485 surface water DrWPAs in England, of which 127 are at risk from pesticides. Our ultimate aim is to reduce this number over time.

Q. How do I find out if I am in a Safeguard Zone for metazachlor?

A. Agronomists and growers should visit the Environment Agency's web-site, - **What's in your backyard? www.wiyby.co.uk**. Enter their post code, a map will then appear with at risk areas highlighted. Click on the Safeguard zone to view a list of the pesticides designated to be a risk in that particular area.

Q. What is drained land?

A. Where it is either permanent, clay or plastic pipes overfilled with gravel or temporary in nature e.g. mole drains.

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Q. What percentage of oilseed rape is grown on drained land?

A. A. Broadly speaking, 60% of oilseed rape area is grown on drained land.

Q. How do I adopt this guidance and still get the best out of my oilseed rape crop?

A. The new advice fits with good oilseed rape agronomy. It emphasizes the need for:

1. Good soil structure
2. Sowing early, into good seedbeds
3. Best practice use of OSR herbicides

These are also the base for high yield potential, providing quick establishment, good root growth and early removal of weed competition.

Q. Is the new advice on the label?

A. The advice is not statutory but it is included on the label under 'Company Advisory Information'. Unless the advice is followed, OSR herbicide use could be severely restricted or even revoked in the future. Statutory label restrictions still apply.

Q. Are all oilseed rape herbicides included?

A. The focus of the 'OSR herbicide? Think water' campaign is herbicides containing metazachlor, quinmerac, carbetamide, propyzamide and chlorpyralid, due to the importance of these actives in an IPM approach to weed control in OSR and the risks of the actives reaching water, particularly in Safeguard zones. The stewardship advice applies to all products containing these actives and not just to Adama brands. in addition, care must be taken to keep all pesticides from reaching water.

Q. What effect will different cultivation techniques have?

A. H2OK? Advises that deep subsoiling and mole draining may allow a more rapid movement of pesticides through the soil structure and to avoid this, growers should only subsoil just below pan depth to remove any identified compaction and avoid subsoiling or mole draining before using any products with a Water Protection Advice Sheet (WPAS)

Min or No-till techniques can help reduce soil erosion and compaction and increase organic matter levels in the soil.

Q. What is a WPAS?

A. WPAS stands for Water Protection Advice Sheets and are available for download for key pesticides that are finding their way into water from the VI website.

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