

Changes in use recommendations for UK chlorpyrifos-ethyl products

A European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) review has recommended reducing the reference values for chlorpyrifos-ethyl used in the consumer risk assessment. This recommendation follows a change in the scientific methodology used by EFSA and is not evidence of a negative impact on human health or an imminent threat to public health.

As a consequence the UK's Chemicals Regulatory Directorate (CRD) has requested that chlorpyrifos-ethyl product labels are updated in the UK to reflect these new reference values. Thus the chlorpyrifos-ethyl manufacturers (Dow AgroSciences, ADAMA and Cheminova) will restrict some uses on the label with effect from 21st May 2015. These changes relate to post-flowering uses in fruit and vegetable crops destined for the fresh food market.

The required changes are as follows:

- **Apples and pears.** No use after blossom except for crops destined for cider or perry production. Pre blossom treatments can continue.
- **Strawberries.** No use for 15 days before harvest (replacing the current pre-harvest interval of 7 days).
- **Plums.** No use after blossom except for crops intended for heat preservation. Pre blossom treatments can continue.
- **Brassicas** (cauliflower, broccoli, calabrese, oriental cabbages, brussels sprout, cabbage). Use only before the head forms.
- **Potatoes.** Use only on seed crop potatoes.

All other uses remain unchanged.

Crops already treated according to previous label recommendations can be marketed assuming that they meet existing maximum residue levels (MRLs) for chlorpyrifos.

The chlorpyrifos-ethyl manufacturers (approval holders) are providing amended instructions for use as soon as possible.

The above changes are part of an ongoing review of chlorpyrifos-ethyl by CRD, which may result in further changes being required.