

SFIREG OPP Updates

April 2021

December 4, 2020: EPA Proposes New Safety Measures for Chlorpyrifos

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-new-safety-measures-chlorpyrifos>

EPA is taking the next step in its regulatory review of chlorpyrifos, an insecticide used for a large variety of agricultural uses and non-agricultural uses. As outlined in the proposed interim decision (PID), EPA is proposing:

- Label amendments limiting application to address potential drinking water risks of concern.
- Additional personal protection equipment and application restrictions to address potential occupational handler risks of concern.
- Spray drift mitigation, in combination with the use limitations and application restrictions identified to address drinking water and occupational risks, to reduce exposure to non-target organisms.

Upon publication of the PID in the Federal Register, public comments were accepted for 60 days on both the September 2020 draft risk assessments as well as the PID. Comment period closed March 7, 2021.

December 10, 2020: EPA Increases Transparency for Inert Ingredients in Antimicrobial Products

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-increases-transparency-inert-ingredients-antimicrobial-products>

In support of the Trump Administration's ongoing commitment to increase transparency and at the request of retailers, states, and industry, EPA is allowing registrants of antimicrobial pesticide products to more efficiently disclose inert ingredients. [Through today's action](#), consumers will be able to view inert ingredients for certain products by following a QR code or website link included on a product's label.

Disclosure of inert ingredients is voluntary. There is no statutory or regulatory requirement at the federal level to identify inert ingredients except where it has been [required](#) on a case-by-case basis. In such cases, the guidelines for voluntary inert ingredient disclosure do not apply.

For more information, [please visit EPA's website](#).

December 11, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Trifludimoxazin, a New Herbicide Active Ingredient

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-trifludimoxazin-new-herbicide-active-ingredient>

EPA is proposing to register pesticide products containing the new active ingredient trifludimoxazin, a vital additional tool in managing resistant weeds. Trifludimoxazin is an herbicide intended for pre- and/or post-emergent control of broadleaf and grass weeds. It can be applied by aircraft for both agricultural and non-agricultural uses.

EPA reviewed trifludimoxazin and determined there are no human health risk concerns. The agency is proposing specific mitigations to address potential ecological risks.

EPA accepted public comments on this proposal via docket for 30 days. Comment period closed January 11, 2021.

December 22, 2020: FIFRA SAP Meeting Minutes and Final Report for September 2020 Meeting on EPA's NAMs

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/fifra-sap-meeting-minutes-and-final-report-september-2020-meeting-epas-nams>

The meeting minutes and final report is available in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0263 at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). A link to the document is also posted on the [FIFRA SAP meeting webpage](#).

EPA is in the process of reviewing the report and then will determine next steps.

Consistent with the EPA administrator's directive to reduce animal testing, EPA is developing and implementing new approach methodologies (NAMs) using methods such as in vitro techniques and computational approaches. Using NAMs can provide the opportunity to incorporate information relevant to humans.

December 23, 2020: EPA Proposes to Register New Broad-Spectrum Fungicide

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-register-new-broad-spectrum-fungicide>

EPA is seeking public comment on its proposed decision to register the new fungicide active ingredient fluindapyr for foliar agricultural and non-agricultural uses.

Fluindapyr protects against a broad spectrum of fungal diseases such as anthracnose, alternaria leaf spot, bermudagrass decline, brown rot blossom blight, leaf rust, pink snow mold, powdery mildew, rot eastern filbert blight, and scab.

EPA has not identified any dietary, residential, or aggregate risks of concern for human health. Risks of concern for occupational workers will be mitigated by the use of personal protective equipment as specified on the proposed label and by a 14-day restricted entry interval where necessary. EPA is proposing specific mitigations to address potential ecological risks to bees.

To read more about the proposed registration of fluindapyr and to comment, see docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0551 in [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Comment period for registration closed January 22, 2021.

December 23, 2020: Extended for Atrazine, Propazine and Simazine Draft Biological Evaluations

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-atrazine-propazine-and-simazine-draft-biological-evaluations>

EPA is extending the public comment period on the draft biological evaluations for atrazine, propazine and simazine to give stakeholders more time to review and comment. The comment period was set to close on Jan. 5, 2021, and EPA extended the comment period an additional 45 days to March 2, 2021.

December 28, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Picarbutrazox, a New Fungicide Active

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-picarbutrazox-new-fungicide-active>

EPA) is proposing to register the new active ingredient picarbutrazox, which represents a new tool for managing resistant fungi.

Uses of picarbutrazox include seed treatment of corn and soybean to control *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* and turf treatment to control *Pythium* diseases.

EPA reviewed picarbutrazox and determined there are no human health risk concerns. The proposed product label contains language to address potential ecological risks. Public comments on this proposal accepted for 15 days. Comment period closed January 13, 2021.

January 7, 2021: EPA Proposes to Codify Certain Pesticide Product Performance Requirements to Improve Clarity and Reduce Burden

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-codify-certain-pesticide-product-performance-requirements-improve-clarity>

Today, EPA proposed to codify product performance data requirements for products claiming efficacy against certain pests to increase the efficiency of the agency's approval process and save registrants time and money.

Product performance standards make it easier for pesticide registrants to know the efficacy data that must be submitted to the Agency to prove their pesticide product works as claimed. Through the agency's proposed rule, EPA satisfies a requirement of the 2018 Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act (PRIA 4). This action also officially incorporates the agency's [product performance standards requirements](#) for certain invertebrate pests into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Comments were accepted for 60 days.

January 11, 2021: In Mississippi, Administrator Wheeler Announces Multi-Million-Dollar Initiative Dedicated to Sustainable Pest Control in Agriculture

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/mississippi-administrator-wheeler-announces-multi-million-dollar-initiative-dedicated>

At an event with the Mississippi Farm Bureau, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced a \$2 million dollar initiative that encourages smart, sensible, and sustainable pest control in agriculture. The initiative, which is an extension of EPA's [Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program \(PESP\)](#), expects to award grantees up to \$200,000 to implement sustainable pest management practices that align with the agency's goal of providing a healthier environment for all Americans.

EPA expects to issue a Request for Applications in January 2021 and applicants will have 45 days to submit their applications.

For more information about PESP, visit: www.epa.gov/pesp

January 12, 2021: EPA Takes Aggressive Actions Against Citrus Greening While Maintaining Public Health and Environmental Protections

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-aggressive-actions-against-citrus-greening-while-maintaining-public-health-and>

EPA is announcing two actions to help protect America's citrus industry from citrus greening and citrus canker disease. In Florida alone, 90 percent of citrus acreage is affected by citrus greening, resulting in \$1.75 billion in cumulative losses in production value over a 10-year period.

EPA is registering one technical product, a supplemental label, and one new end-use product for the insecticide aldicarb for use on oranges and grapefruit in Florida.

EPA is also amending one technical and one end-use product for streptomycin, an antibiotic derived from the bacterium *Streptomyces griseus*, to be used on citrus crop group 10-10, which includes varieties of orange, grapefruit, lemon, and lime.

January 12, 2021: Comment Period Extended for Glyphosate Draft Biological Evaluation

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-glyphosate-draft-biological-evaluation>

EPA is extending the public comment period on the draft biological evaluation for glyphosate to give stakeholders more time to review and comment. The current comment period was set to close on Jan. 26, 2021. EPA extended the comment period an additional 45 days to March 13, 2021.

January 14, 2021: EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-investigate-pfas-contamination>

As part of the EPA's extensive efforts to address PFAS, today the agency is making new information available about EPA testing that shows PFAS contamination from fluorinated containers.

Through a coordinated effort with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a pesticide manufacturer, the agency has determined that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers that are used to store and transport a mosquito control pesticide product contain PFAS compounds that are leaching into the pesticide product.

EPA has issued a request for information under the Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) to the company that fluorinates the containers used by certain pesticide manufacturers. The TSCA subpoena requests information about the fluorination process used to treat the containers.

EPA understands the need to provide guidance to states, tribes, and other users as they prepare to purchase mosquito control products for 2021 and will provide more information as it continues its investigation. EPA will update the following webpage with information as it becomes available: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>

January 15, 2021: Updates to Pesticide Label Review Manual and Registration Guide Now Available

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/updates-pesticide-label-review-manual-and-registration-guide-now-available>

EPA has updated the [Pesticide Registration Manual](#) and [Pesticide Label Review Manual](#) (LRM) to provide additional resources for companies and individuals wishing to sell their pesticide products in the United States.

The Registration Manual describes EPA's review and decision-making process for registering a pesticide product. EPA is adding a new introductory section to provide a brief overview of the registration process. The LRM is a resource for understanding how pesticide labels should generally be drafted. EPA updates the LRM periodically to ensure EPA label reviewers and stakeholders have the most current guidance. EPA is updating Chapter 2, "What is a Pesticide?"

January 15, 2021: EPA Approves Emergency Exemption for Antiviral Air Treatment

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-approves-emergency-exemption-antiviral-air-treatment>

Today, EPA announced approval of an emergency exemption request for use of Grignard Pure, as an additional tool in limited use situations to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

EPA is issuing an emergency exemption for Grignard Pure to be used in certain indoor spaces where social distancing can be challenging. This exemption has been granted to Georgia and Tennessee state governments.

Additionally, the EPA-approved label requires that signs be posted at every entrance to the spaces notifying the public that the space has been treated. EPA reviewed all available data on this product's effectiveness and safety and concluded that it is capable of killing 98 percent of airborne SARS-CoV-2.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/section-18-emergency-exemption-requests-and-coronavirus-covid-19>.

January 19, 2021: EPA Releases Revised Pesticide Test Guidelines for Fire Ants and Invertebrate Pests of Pets

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-revised-pesticide-test-guidelines-fire-ants-and-invertebrate-pests-pets>

The EPA final efficacy test guidelines are now available for pesticides used against fire ants and invertebrate pests of pets. In these test guidelines, EPA recommends studies that evaluate the performance of pesticides that control fire ant colonies and pests such as fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and biting flies.

These revised test guidelines update, clarify, and expand upon the original guidelines, which EPA published in 1998. They provide more detailed recommendations of testing methods and statistical analyses, and include testing designs for newer product types.

January 19, 2021: EPA Seeks Public Input on the Current Pesticide Exemption Provision Process

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-seeks-public-input-current-pesticide-exemption-provision-process>

EPA is issuing an [Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(ANPRM\)](#) to solicit information on the current pesticide exemption provision process.

EPA is considering whether regulatory and policy changes are needed to improve the exemption provisions for pesticides that may be considered minimum risk under FIFRA.

Specifically, EPA is seeking public input on:

- Whether programmatic changes are necessary to ease state regulation of federally exempt products; and
- Whether the agency should consider adding any new classes of pesticidal substances for exemption.

Upon publication of the Federal Register notice, public comments will be accepted for 90 days in docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0537 at www.regulations.gov. Not yet published.

January 19, 2021: EPA Finalizes Guidance to Waive Toxicity Tests on Animal Skin-- *Guidance is expected to save up to 750 animals from unnecessary testing annually*

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-guidance-waive-toxicity-tests-animal-skin>

Today, the EPA delivered on [EPA Administrator's directive to reduce animal testing](#) by finalizing guidance that will allow researchers to forego testing chemicals on animal skin in certain circumstances to determine whether pesticides lead to adverse effects.

In developing the guidance, EPA conducted a retrospective analysis with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. The joint analysis found that requirements for such studies provides little to no added value in the regulatory decision making process.

“Today’s action is another example of how EPA is moving closer to achieve our goal of eliminating the use of mammals in chemical testing by 2035,” said EPA OCSPP Assistant Administrator **Alexandra Dapolito Dunn**.

The [final dermal toxicity guidance](#) will allow registrants to apply for waivers for studies on single-active ingredients used to develop end use products.

January 20, 2021: EPA Authorizes Emergency Exemptions for Residual Antiviral Surface Coating for Oklahoma and Arkansas

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-authorizes-emergency-exemptions-residual-antiviral-surface-coating-oklahoma-and>

Today, EPA announced emergency exemptions for the states of [Oklahoma and Arkansas](#) allowing them to permit the use of SurfaceWise2, a residual antiviral surface coating, in American Airlines airport facilities and planes. SurfaceWise2 is already in use in American Airlines airport facilities and planes in certain locations in Texas under a previous [EPA emergency exemption](#).

EPA has also revised the terms of use for SurfaceWise2 for all emergency exemptions. EPA’s initial emergency exemptions specified that the product remained effective for seven days. According to its updated labels, SurfaceWise2 provides residual surface control of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces that are undisturbed for up to 30 days. For more information, see [EPA's website](#).

February 3, 2021: EPA Holds Virtual Training for Pesticide Applicators in Indian Country

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-holds-virtual-training-pesticide-applicators-indian-country-0>

EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs will host a two-day virtual training on Feb. 10-11, 2021, to certify participants as private applicators of restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian country under the [EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country \(EPA Plan\)](#).

RUPs require special care to avoid harming human health and the environment. In accordance with the requirements in 40 CFR § 171, RUPs can only be sold to or used by pesticide applicators who are specially certified, or to persons under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. RUPs can only be used in areas where EPA has explicitly approved or implemented an applicator certification plan.

Some tribes may choose to further restrict or prohibit the use of RUPs in their areas.

February 4, 2021: EPA Celebrates National Pesticide Safety Education Month

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-celebrates-national-pesticide-safety-education-month>

During the month of February, the EPA celebrates National Pesticide Safety Education Month to raise awareness for pesticide safety education and share best practices for using pesticides safely in and around your home.

Learn more today about pesticide safety by visiting <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>.

February 5, 2021: Comment Period Extended for Chlorpyrifos Draft Risk Assessments and Proposed Interim Decision

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-chlorpyrifos-draft-risk-assessments-and-proposed-interim-decision>

EPA is extending the public comment period on the draft risk assessments (DRAs) and proposed interim decision (PID), released December 4, 2020, for chlorpyrifos to give the public and stakeholders more time to review and comment. The current comment period was set to close on February 5, 2021, and EPA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days. Comment period ended March 7, 2021.

February 10, 2021: EPA Registers Copper Surfaces for Residual Use Against Coronavirus

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-registers-copper-surfaces-residual-use-against-coronavirus>

EPA is announcing that certain copper alloys provide long-term effectiveness against viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. As a result of EPA's approval, products containing these copper alloys can now be sold and distributed with claims that they kill certain viruses that come into contact with them. This is the first product with residual claims against viruses to be registered for use nationwide. Testing to demonstrate this effectiveness was conducted on harder-to-kill viruses.

Antimicrobial copper alloys can be manufactured into a wide range of surfaces, including doorknobs and handrails. For more information on how copper alloy products can be used against viruses, see [EPA's website](#) or the product's label in the [Pesticide Product and Label System](#).

February 19, 2021: EPA Opens Comment Period for Draft Biological Opinions on Four Pesticides

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-comment-period-draft-biological-opinions-four-pesticides>

EPA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are seeking comment on [two NMFS draft biological opinions](#) on four pesticides. Metolachlor, bromoxynil and prometryn are herbicides used to control grasses and broadleaf weeds, and 1,3-D is a pesticide used in pre-plant fumigation.

The draft biological opinions evaluate the impact of these pesticides on 26 federally listed endangered and threatened species of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon, and California. The draft biological opinions find that registered uses of these pesticides do not jeopardize the listed salmon and steelhead populations or their critical habitats.

In addition to the "no jeopardy" findings, the draft biological opinions also describe reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs) to protect the listed species of salmon and steelhead and their critical habitats.

The public comment period will be open for 60 days. The draft biological opinions are included in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0150 at www.regulations.gov. **Comments due April 20, 2021.**

March 5, 2021: EPA Takes Action to Protect Public Health by Proposing Cancellation of Pentachlorophenol

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-action-protect-public-health-proposing-cancellation-pentachlorophenol>

In support of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to making evidence-based decisions to protect human health, EPA is taking an important step by proposing the cancellation of the registration of pentachlorophenol. Pentachlorophenol is a heavy-duty wood preservative used primarily on utility poles.

After completing a risk assessment, EPA determined that pentachlorophenol poses significant human health risks to workers. The agency will accept public comments on this proposed interim decision (PID) for 60 days in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0653 at [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). **Comments due May 4, 2021.**

EPA's proposed action would align the United States with the United Nation's Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which has banned the use of pentachlorophenol.

March 5, 2021: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-testing-data-showing-pfas-contamination-fluorinated-containers>

As the EPA pursues its mission to protect human health and the environment, addressing risks related to PFAS is a priority. To this end, EPA is making available new testing data related to PFAS found in fluorinated containers in which a mosquito control product was packaged and sold.

In December 2020, EPA studied the fluorinated HDPE containers used to store and transport the product and preliminarily determined the fluorination process used may be the source of PFAS contamination.

In January 2021, EPA continued its testing which showed the PFAS were most likely formed from a chemical reaction during the container fluorination process which then leached into the pesticide product. After completing a robust quality assurance and quality control process, EPA can confirm that it has detected eight different PFAS from the fluorinated HDPE containers, with levels ranging from 20-50 parts per billion.

Building on the agency's initial actions [announced in January 2021](#), EPA initiated a series of steps to tackle this issue. To view the data and learn more, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>.

March 18, 2021: EPA Addresses Ecological Risks Posed by Four Pyridines and Pyrimidines Herbicides

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-addresses-ecological-risks-posed-four-pyridines-and-pyrimidines-herbicides>

EPA is releasing a proposed interim decision for picloram and interim decisions for clopyralid, dithiopyr and triclopyr to address ecological risks. The interim decision (ID) for dithiopyr finalizes enforceable mitigation measures to address spray drift risks of concern. The IDs for clopyralid and triclopyr finalize enforceable mitigation measures to address potential residues in compost in addition to spray drift.

In addition to the IDs, EPA is also releasing the proposed interim decision (PID) for picloram for public comment.

The pyridines and pyrimidines are a class of herbicides used to control broadleaf weeds, woody brush and aquatic plants in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings that vary among the herbicides.

Upon publication of the Federal Register notice, the IDs will be available in docket numbers [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0167](#) (clopyralid), [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0750](#) (dithiopyr) and [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0576](#) (triclopyr) and the PID will be available for a 60-day public comment period in docket number [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0740](#) (picloram) at www.regulations.gov. **Comments due May 17, 2021.**

March 25, 2021: EPA Celebrates National Farmworker Awareness Week

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-celebrates-national-farmworker-awareness-week>

From March 25 to March 31, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) celebrates National Farmworker Awareness Week to recognize the more than two million agricultural workers that help feed

our families. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring agricultural workers and pesticide handlers are provided with access to information and health protections similar to those already afforded to workers in other industries. EPA provides resources and conducts initiatives to protect the well-being of farmworkers and their communities.

To learn more about EPA's efforts to protect farmworkers, pesticide handlers and their families, visit [EPA's Occupational Pesticide Safety and Health homepage](#).

March 31, 2021: EPA Releases Final Biological Evaluations of Carbaryl and Methomyl's Impacts on Endangered Species

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-final-biological-evaluations-carbaryl-and-methomyls-impacts-endangered>

After carefully considering public comments on the draft biological evaluations (BEs) for [carbaryl](#) and [methomyl](#), today, EPA is releasing its final BEs, which find that these insecticides are "likely to adversely affect" a number of threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats.

Since the findings of the BEs include potential adverse effects on listed species, EPA will need to engage in formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) to further study these potential impacts and possibly propose mitigation measures for vulnerable species.

The Services will use this information to develop their biological opinions to determine if the pesticides jeopardize the continued existence of any of the listed species and whether there is adverse modification to their critical habitats. If jeopardy or adverse modification is determined, the Services, with input from EPA and the registrants, will propose protection measures as appropriate.