Ag-Chem Update
March 2025

MT24008 – Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination
DTS Regulatory Consultants

Below is a summary of various regulatory issues and chemical reviews currently underway both locally and internationally.

NATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

Chemical Review

Active Chemical Reviews

Neonicotinoids are under scrutiny due to their potential effects on pollinators and certain **rodenticides** are being evaluated for their environmental risks and non-target impacts.

From 03 February 2025, products containing more than 1.5% weight/volume (w/v) **bromoxynil** were updated from a Schedule 6 to Schedule 7 Dangerous Poisons. Schedule 7 products must be stored and transported in a secure manner and only supplied to persons with the relevant State or Territory approval or license for using schedule 7 poisons.

The final decision for **chlorpyrifos** was made by the APVMA on 30 September 2024 and published on 3 October 2024 with a one-year phase-out period provided for possession, custody, use, and supply of the cancelled and varied products having the previously approved labels. **As such any existing product held by growers or purchased prior to 30 September 2025 with old labels that include cancelled uses, can be used in accordance with those labels up until 30 September 2025 only**. Great care however must be taken to ensure the label instructions on the chlorpyrifos product labels have changed. See here for a complete list of label changes including for horticultural crops.

Public consultation for the proposed regulatory decision for **fenitrothion** closed on 8 July 2024 and the final regulatory decision is expected May 2025.

There are many horticultural uses of fenitrothion that are proposed to be cancelled including:

- Use in apples, cabbages, cherries, grapes, lettuce and tomatoes for control of locust and grasshopper pests; and
- Use on pasture for control of pasture cockchafer, corbie, winter corbie, underground grass grub and oxycanus grub.

The final decision for **diazinon** was published on the APVMA Website on 10 September 2024 with a one-year phase-out period provided for possession, custody, use, and supply of the cancelled and varied products that have the previously approved labels. The current temporary MRL for diazinon of 2 mg/kg for grapes will be removed from Schedule 20 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code after September 10, 2025. Use on nursery plants as a drench against certain pests has been retained.

The proposed decisions for **paraquat** and **diquat** were published on 30 July 2024 and public consultation closed on the 29 October 2024 where the APVMA received more than 100 submissions. The review process was extended until late 2025 following the high volume of public submissions. Both final regulatory decisions for paraquat and diquat are expected on Quarter 4 2025. A summary of risk assessment outcomes for paraquat and diquat uses, and whether they are proposed to be supported or not, is available on the APVMA website. A significant number of horticultural uses are to be cancelled, or application rates reduced.

The reconsideration of **malathion** was completed on 2 May 2024 with a 2–year phase out period, after which products must comply with the updated labels. Extensive toxicity studies and environmental impact assessments were considered in its decision-making process. Impurities in malathion that increase its toxicity were addressed in the updated standards. Malathion remains approved for use in agriculture, horticulture, veterinary, and domestic applications but under stricter conditions to ensure safety and environmental protection.

The assessment of **fipronil** is in progress, with the publication of the proposed regulatory decision for agricultural products expected in April 2026, and the final regulatory decision in December 2026.

The APVMA is progressing its review of **first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides** including warfarin, coumatetralyl and diphacinone (first generation), brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, difethialone, and flocoumafen (second generation). The proposed regulatory decision is expected to be published in July 2025.

Assessments for the **neonicotinoid** reconsideration (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam) are ongoing and publication of the proposed regulatory decisions for individual neonicotinoid actives are expected to commence late 2025.

All agricultural products containing **chlorthal dimethyl** were cancelled on 9 October 2024 due to an immediate risk to human health. While a permit has been issued allowing possession of products, it is not legal to sell or use these products as agricultural chemical products. This affects 12 products used in vegetable crops, turf, and cotton.

Methiocarb was voluntarily cancelled at the request of Bayer on 19 September 2024. The two remaining registered products are likely to be cancelled unless a new manufacturer of methiocarb is approved.

Label Extensions & Registrations

List includes February 2025 – March 13, 2025.

Agronaturalis Limited
Applied to register an 850 g/kg **potassium bicarbonate** soluble granule (SG) product for control of botrytis and powdery mildew in wine grapes, of powdery mildew in strawberries, vegetables and roses, and of rust in geraniums/pelargoniums.

Bayer
Interrupt 240 SC Miticide containing the active **spiromesifen** was registered on 13 August 2024. Uses include control of various pest mites in pome and stone fruit.

Applied for a variation application to change table grapes to grapes (including wine grapes) for Vayego 200 SC Insecticide containing the active **tetraniliprole**.

FMC Australasia
Applied for the registration of Catulia Bionematicide, a suspension concentrate containing 2.3E+10 CFU/mL ***Bacillus paralicheniformis*** strain FMCH001 and 2.3E+10 CFU/mL Bacillus subtilis strain FMCH002, for the control of root knot nematode in vegetables in conjunction with the approval of the active constituents it contains.

APVMAs permit-to-label project which was initiated to transfer minor use patterns from current permits to a registered product label to improve access to agricultural chemicals has now been formally closed. However, applicants can still apply for 'permit to label uses' if the invitation remains relevant to their product. More information regarding Permit-to-label outcomes have been published on the APVMA website.

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

Codex

As indicated in the previous newsletter, decisions regarding carbendazim, pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide were made during the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues meeting in June 2024. Data or a commitment to provide data was to be provided to the FAO/WHO before the end of 2024 otherwise the deletion of all Codex MRLs for these compounds will be considered at the upcoming CCPR55 meeting in June 2025.

Brazil

In January 2025, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) imposed restrictions on the use of **fipronil**, an insecticide toxic to bees. The agency banned both aerial and terrestrial spraying of fipronil across the entire national territory, except for applications directly targeting soil or plants.

Unlike paraquat, which was banned in Brazil in 2020, **diquat** remains legal for use with reports linking diquat exposure to severe health issues among Brazilian farmers, highlighting concerns about the importation and use of pesticides prohibited elsewhere.

On February 20, 2025, Brazil launched the "Environmental Monitoring Strategy for PFOS and Pesticides," a three-year program to monitor 53 active pesticide ingredients nationwide. This initiative aims to generate data to inform public policies on environmental protection and human health.

Other active ingredients under review, include **glyphosate,** and certain **neonicotinoids** though use remains widespread.

Glyphosate is among the most widely used herbicides in Brazil where its regulation allows much higher residue levels compared to the EU which maintains stricter standards. This significant discrepancy highlights the differences in pesticide regulations between Brazil and the EU.

Neonicotinoids, particularly **thiamethoxam**, have faced recent restrictions in Brazil. On February 23, 2025, IBAMA announced new measures limiting the use of **thiamethoxam** where aerial and terrestrial spraying of thiamethoxam is now banned. Its use is no longer authorized in 10 crops, including potato, eggplant, onion, and eucalyptus.

Canada

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) announced the phase-out of **carbaryl**, a widely used insecticide, due to concerns over risks to human health and the environment. The phase-out is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

A re-evaluation of **carbon dioxide** and its associated end-use products as a pesticide active ingredient has been initiated. The proposed re-evaluation decision PRVD2025-03 was published on 28 February 2025, and stakeholders are invited to provide comments up to 29 May 2025.

Restrictions and phase-out on **neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam)** remain in place due to risks to pollinators and aquatic life, and further regulatory action is being considered.

The PMRA has faced allegations of industry interference during the re-evaluation of the neonicotinoid insecticide **imidacloprid**. Environmental groups have called for an independent review, citing concerns about the exclusion of critical water sampling data that indicated harmful concentrations affecting aquatic insects.

Environmental and health risks associated with **atrazine** is currently being reviewed, with potential new restrictions on use due to water contamination concerns.

Chlorpyrifos was completely banned as of December 2023, aligning with international restrictions. There is continued monitoring of alternatives**.**

EU

The approval for the herbicide **flumioxazin** expired in 2024 and was not renewed due to environmental concerns.

The EFSA recommended non-renewal of approval for the herbicide **s-metolachlor** in 2023 because of groundwater contamination concerns.

Glyphosate was re-approved in late 2023 for 10 years, but with stricter application guidelines but some individual member states (e.g., France, Germany) are phasing out its use.

Nearly all outdoor uses of **neonicotinoids** remain banned due to pollinator risks with tighter controls on emergency-use exemptions.

United Kingdom

As of March 10, 2025, **glyphosate** remains authorized for use in the UK, with its approval extended until December 2025. This extension was granted following a three-year review period to allow the UK to establish its post-Brexit pesticide regulatory framework.

Emergency use of **thiamethoxam** for sugar beets was denied in 2024, reinforcing pollinator protection measures. In December 2024, the UK government announced plans to ban bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides, specifically **clothianidin**, **imidacloprid**, and **thiamethoxam**. In January 2025, the UK government banned the emergency use of the neonicotinoid pesticide Cruiser SB containing **thiamethoxam**.

Mexico

Gradually phasing out **glyphosate** by 2024-2025, citing environmental and health concerns.

USA

In December 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule to ban most uses of **chlorpyrifos** on food crops, allowing exceptions for 11 specific crops, including alfalfa, apples, and soybeans.

In August 2024, the EPA issued an emergency order suspending all registrations of pesticide products containing **dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA)**, commonly known as Dacthal, due to environmental and health concerns. Following this suspension, AMVAC Chemical Corporation, the sole manufacturer of DCPA, voluntarily agreed to cancel all remaining pesticide products containing DCPA in the United States and internationally. The EPA published a notice in the Federal Register on August 29, 2024, to take public comments on the voluntary cancellation. And as of October 23, 2024, the EPA issued a final cancellation order for all DCPA pesticide registrations

Dicamba is facing new restrictions due to concerns over drift damage to non-target crops with some states enforcing stricter cut-off dates.

The EPA approved the registration of **glufosinate-P** as a new active ingredient under its Herbicide Strategy Framework in December 2024, despite concerns about risks to endangered species.

Glyphosate is still under legal scrutiny, with potential label changes and additional mitigation measures being considered.

In November 2024, over 50 US lawmakers urged the EPA to ban the herbicide **paraquat**, citing links to Parkinson's disease and other health risks. The EPA was expected to release a final report by January 2025. However, on January 22, 2025, the EPA stated, "additional data are necessary to resolve the uncertainty" surrounding certain paraquat risks, particularly regarding the "potential for paraquat to volatize" and "inhalation risks to bystanders from the volatilization of paraquat". The agency asked to withdraw its interim decision on paraquat while it further investigates the concerns surrounding the chemical and requested until March 3, 2025, to file a reply in support of its motion to remand.

Communications Manager - Hort Innovation
Level 7, 141 Walker Street, North Sydney NSW 2060 Australia
Email: communications@horticulture.com.au
Phone: 02 8295 2300

Funding Statement:
MT24008 – Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination
This multi-industry project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.