

FAO PESTICIDE SPECIFICATIONS – REVIEW AND WITHDRAWAL OF OLD SPECIFICATIONS¹

Gero Vaagt, Senior Officer, Pesticide Management, at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome discusses the current review and withdrawal of old specifications

Since 1971, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has developed and published specifications for pesticides and their related formulations. These specifications are accepted world-wide as quality criteria for agricultural pesticides.

The main objective of the FAO Pesticide Specifications is to provide an international point of reference against which products can be judged, either for regulatory purposes or in commercial dealings, thereby helping to prevent the trading, sale and use of inferior products. In 1999, a new procedure was introduced which includes the review and withdrawal of existing specifications, as described in section 2 of the *Manual on the development and use of FAO specifications for plant protection products* (FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper 149).

Together with the continuous development of new specifications, FAO has also initiated the review of outdated/obsolete specifications. There are various reasons for specifications becoming obsolete and their withdrawal considered. Some pesticides are no longer traded, some are classified as posing serious health or environmental risks to the user and the environment and their use in agriculture is no longer internationally recommended, e.g. pesticides subject to the Stockholm Convention. Others have been classified by the World Health Organization as obsolete or their use as pesticides has been discontinued (see WHO recommended classification of pesticides by hazard 1998).

Based on the above, at the 31st Meeting of FAO Experts on Pesticide Specifications, held in Bangkok (Thailand) in June 2001, FAO initiated the review process for pesticide specifications to be identified for withdrawal where no relevance exists for trade or for other reasons. The pesticide specifications under consideration for review with the intention of withdrawal are:

<i>anilazine</i>	<i>dioxathion</i>
<i>bromophos</i>	<i>endrin</i>
<i>camphechlor (toxaphene)</i>	<i>fenoprop</i>
<i>chlorbenside</i>	<i>HHDN (aldrin)</i>
<i>chlordan</i>	<i>heptachlor</i>
<i>demeton</i>	<i>methoxyethylmercury silicate</i>
<i>demeton-S-methyl</i>	<i>methoxyethylmercury chloride</i>
<i>DDT + its mixtures</i>	<i>monuron</i>
<i>HEOD (dieldrin)</i>	<i>nicotine</i>
<i>HEOD (dieldrin) + mercury</i>	<i>nicotine sulfate</i>
<i>dimefox</i>	<i>schradan</i>
<i>dinoseb</i>	<i>2,4,5-T</i>

¹The views expressed in this report represent those of the author and not necessarily those of FAO.

Table 1. Proposed Programme for the Development of FAO Specifications, 2001 and 2002

2001 New Procedure New Specification	2002 New Procedure New Specification
azadirachtin beta-cypermethrin dazomet diphenylamine flufenzine maleic hydrazide niclosamide procymidone	azadirachtin bensulfuron-methyl butralin niclosamide quinclorac tribenuron methyl WHO: d-allethrin d-phenothrin prallethrin transfluthrin
New Procedure Review of Existing Specifications	New Procedure Review of Existing Specifications
dicamba dimethoate glyphosate imazalil metsulfuron-methyl parathion methyl	iprodione maleic hydrazide methomyl propanil FAO+WHO chlorpyrifos niclosamide

Comments and suggestions from pesticide manufacturers, trading companies, government entities and others with an interest in one or more of the pesticides, or in the review process of pesticide specifications in general, are encouraged and welcomed by FAO. Specifications for the above-listed compounds will be officially proposed for withdrawal by FAO at next year's meeting in June 2002 if no comments or objections have been received by 31 March 2002 at the latest.

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For general information on FAO Pesticide Specifications please visit <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Default.htm>