



BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844; FRL-9940-82]**

### **Imidacloprid Registration Review; Draft Pollinator Ecological Risk Assessment; Notice of Availability**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of EPA's draft pollinator-only ecological risk assessment for the registration review of imidacloprid and opens a public comment period on this document. Registration review is EPA's periodic review of pesticide registrations to ensure that each pesticide continues to satisfy the statutory standard for registration, that is, the pesticide can perform its intended function without unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. As part of the registration review process, the Agency has completed a comprehensive draft pollinator-only ecological risk assessment for all registered agricultural uses of imidacloprid, with focus on agricultural crops that are attractive to pollinators. After reviewing comments received during the public comment period, EPA will issue a revised pollinator risk assessment, explain any changes to the draft risk assessment, and respond to comments and may request public input on risk mitigation before completing a proposed registration review decision for imidacloprid. The revised risk assessment will also address the ecological risks for all other taxa, as well as a comprehensive draft human health risk assessment. Through the registration review program, EPA is ensuring that each

pesticide's registration is based on current scientific and other knowledge, including its effects on human health and the environment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before [*insert date 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register*].

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

- *Mail:* OPP Docket, Environmental Protection Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), (28221T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* To make special arrangements for hand delivery or delivery of boxed information, please follow the instructions at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/contacts.html>.

Additional instructions on commenting or visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *For pesticide specific information contact:* Kelly Ballard, Chemical Review Manager, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 305-

8126; email address: *ballard.kelly@epa.gov*.

*For general questions on the registration review program, contact: Rich Dumas, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 308-8015; email address: *dumas.richard@epa.gov*.*

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. General Information**

#### *A. Does this Action Apply to Me?*

This action is directed to the public in general, and may be of interest to a wide range of stakeholders including environmental, human health, farm worker, and agricultural advocates; the chemical industry; pesticide users; and members of the public interested in the sale, distribution, or use of pesticides. Since others also may be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the Chemical Review Manager listed under **FOR**

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

#### *B. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?*

1. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to EPA through regulations.gov or email. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to EPA, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or

CD-ROM the specific information that is claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

2. *Tips for preparing your comments.* When preparing and submitting your comments, see the commenting tips at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/comments.html>.

3. *Environmental justice.* EPA seeks to achieve environmental justice, the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of any group, including minority and/or low income populations, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. To help address potential environmental justice issues, the Agency seeks information on any groups or segments of the population who, as a result of their location, cultural practices, or other factors, may have atypical or disproportionately high and adverse human health impacts or environmental effects from exposure to the pesticide(s) discussed in this document, compared to the general population.

## **II. Authority**

EPA is conducting its registration review of imidacloprid pursuant to section 3(g) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Procedural Regulations for Registration Review at 40 CFR part 155, subpart C. Section 3(g) of FIFRA provides, among other things, that the registrations of pesticides are to be reviewed every 15 years. Under FIFRA, a pesticide product may be registered or remain

registered only if it meets the statutory standard for registration given in FIFRA section 3(c)(5) (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(5)). When used in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized practice, the pesticide product must perform its intended function without unreasonable adverse effects on the environment; that is, without any unreasonable risk to man or the environment, or a human dietary risk from residues that result from the use of a pesticide in or on food.

### **III. Registration Reviews**

As directed by FIFRA section 3(g), EPA is reviewing the pesticide registration for imidacloprid to ensure that it continues to satisfy the FIFRA standard for registration—that is, that imidacloprid can still be used without unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. Imidacloprid is a neonicotinoid insecticide used for the control of sucking insects on a large variety of agricultural and non-agricultural sites, including vegetable crops, tree nuts, tree fruits, stone fruits, cotton, tobacco, grapes, citrus, turf, and ornamentals. EPA has completed a comprehensive draft pollinator-only ecological risk assessment for all registered agricultural uses of imidacloprid, with focus on agricultural crops that are attractive to pollinators.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 155.53(c), EPA is providing an opportunity, through this notice of availability, for interested parties to provide comments and input concerning the Agency's draft pollinator-only ecological risk assessment for imidacloprid. Such comments and input could address, among other things, the Agency's risk assessment methodologies and assumptions, as applied to this draft pollinator-only risk assessment. The Agency will consider all comments received during the public comment period and

make changes, as appropriate, to the draft pollinator-only risk assessment. EPA will then issue a revised pollinator risk assessment, explain any changes to the draft risk assessment, and respond to comments. In the **Federal Register** notice announcing the availability of the revised risk assessment, if the revised risk assessment indicates risks of concern, the Agency may provide a comment period for the public to submit suggestions for mitigating the risk identified in the revised risk assessment before developing a proposed registration review decision on imidacloprid. Additionally, the revised risk assessment will also address ecological risks for all other taxa, as well as a comprehensive draft human health risk assessment.

1. *Other related information.* Additional information on imidacloprid is available on the Pesticide Registration Review Status webpage. Information on the Agency's registration review program and its implementing regulation is available at [http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration\\_review](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review).

2. *Information submission requirements.* Anyone may submit data or information in response to this document. To be considered during a pesticide's registration review, the submitted data or information must meet the following requirements:

- To ensure that EPA will consider data or information submitted, interested persons must submit the data or information during the comment period. The Agency may, at its discretion, consider data or information submitted at a later date.

- The data or information submitted must be presented in a legible and useable form. For example, an English translation must accompany any material that is not in

English and a written transcript must accompany any information submitted as an audiographic or videographic record. Written material may be submitted in paper or electronic form.

- Submitters must clearly identify the source of any submitted data or information.
- Submitters may request the Agency to reconsider data or information that the Agency rejected in a previous review. However, submitters must explain why they believe the Agency should reconsider the data or information in the pesticide's registration review.

As provided in 40 CFR 155.58, the registration review docket for each pesticide case will remain publicly accessible through the duration of the registration review process; that is, until all actions required in the final decision on the registration review case have been completed.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*

Dated: January 8, 2016.

Michael Goodis,

*Acting Director, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2016-740 Filed: 1/14/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/15/2016]