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Fact Sheet on Reporting Pesticide Incidents

Canada 



The new *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA) provides Health Canada with the authority to require pesticide incident reporting. Incident reporting supports the three key objectives of the new Act—to strengthen health and environmental protection, to strengthen post-registration control of pesticides as well as to make the registration system more transparent.

The Pest Control Products Incident Reporting Regulations (IRR) introduced a mandatory incident reporting requirement for registrants of pesticides in Canada and applicants wishing to register new pesticides in Canada. As of April 2007, registrants and applicants are required by law to report incidents, including adverse effects to health and the environment, to Health Canada within a set time frame. The IRR specify the detailed reporting requirements, including the type of incidents that must be reported, and the required time frame for submitting a report.

Registrants and applicants must report incidents whose effects relate to health or environmental risks or the value of their pesticide(s) to Health Canada.

Incidents are classified into six major categories:

- effects on humans;
- effects on domestic animals;
- effects on the environment (i.e.: plants and wildlife);
- residues in food;
- packaging failure; and
- effects identified in scientific studies.

Incidents are further classified by severity, in the case of humans for instance, from minor effects such as skin rash, headache, etc., to major effects such as reproductive or developmental effects, life-threatening conditions or death.

The time frames for reporting range from 15 days to 12 months, depending on the subject of the exposure (e.g., human, domestic animal, environmental) and the degree of severity of the effect. The severity classifications and corresponding time frames are described in the IRR.

Members of the public, and organizations and professionals in the medical community are encouraged to report pesticide related incidents to the manufacturer listed on the label, who in turn must report to Health Canada. The public may also report incidents to Health Canada.

Information provided by the public and by professionals will be added to the database on pesticides. The database will be regularly searched for any type of pattern related to a specific pesticide. If the result of a search indicates that there is a trend, such as multiple incidents for a particular pesticide or a serious effect, Health Canada will evaluate the information in conjunction with scientific literature. If evaluation of this information identifies a safety issue, appropriate action will be taken. Such action could range from minor label changes to discontinuation of the product.



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Public Disclosure of Incident Reports

All incident reports will be placed in the Public Registry, accessible through the Health Canada website, with the exception of confidential business information as defined by the *Access to Information Act*, and personal information as defined by the *Privacy Act*.

More information on Health Canada's incident reporting initiative is available on the [Incident Reporting section](#).