

Atrazine Label Changes

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In January 2003, EPA issued their interim reregistration eligibility decision (IRED) for atrazine summarizing the Agency's risk assessment for this herbicide. The IRED (over 600 pages long) identifies risks determined by the assessment and the risk mitigation measures the registrants must put on their product labels to address the risks. The IRED did not give specific calendar dates for the registrants to make the label changes.

Recently, we learned there is now a timeline for making the changes. This information, however, has not been well communicated to other stakeholders, thus, it is difficult to respond to questions about when and how changes to atrazine labels are being made. We understand that EPA will be sending the state pesticide regulatory agencies more information in the near future. The following information reviews what we know at this time.

Restricted Use Atrazine Products: Registrants, in addition to putting a new label on product they are currently manufacturing, must also provide sticker and supplemental labeling with the new requirements to dealers and distributors of certain atrazine products. These are products currently classified for restricted use. An orange sticker label, which must be affixed to the label on the container, will be used to inform the purchaser/user that the product must be used in accordance with supplemental labeling titled REQUIREMENTS OF ATRAZINE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT which they are to receive at the point of sale. The atrazine 4L formulation products are the first products on the schedule to receive the sticker labeling. By October 5, all 4L formulation products in the possession of dealers/distributors or in registrants warehouses must have the orange sticker affixed to it. During a several week period after October 5 other restricted use atrazine formulations must have the orange sticker affixed to their labels. End users who purchase atrazine products with the orange sticker on the label must use the product in accordance with the instructions on the supplemental label.

In Florida the changes for these products will impact growers (primarily sugar cane and sod) and applicators who apply them to fairways and lawns. Since these products were already classified as restricted use, the consumer (residential user) is not directly affected by these changes.

Consumer Products: The IRED calls for all atrazine products with greater than 4% atrazine in their formulation to be classified as restricted use due to surface and groundwater issues. Currently there are five active registrations in Florida for atrazine liquid formulation products (25-43% active ingredient) that are not presently classified for restricted use. They were not classified as restricted use when other products were classified several years ago because they had no agricultural uses on the label. These products have been available for consumer use. We understand there will be a recall on these products from distributor shelves in November. Since these products are marketed

for residential users, it is not practical to use sticker and supplemental labeling to make any of these products in the possession of the dealer/distributor restricted use.

We also understand that some registrants may register a 4% EC formulation of atrazine (not restricted) to replace these products. However, this is not likely to occur until sometime next year.

Label Changes: The following are some of the label changes to address occupational risks for pesticide handlers and for residential risks.

Lawn care operators

- * Baseline PPE (long-sleeved shirt and long pants, shoes and socks) will be required for granular formulations.
- * Baseline PPE plus gloves will be required for water dispersible granules and water soluble powders.
- * Maximum PPE (long-sleeved shirt and long pants, shoes, socks, and coveralls; gloves; and a dust/mist respirator) will be required for liquid formulations.
- * The maximum single application rate for liquid formulations on lawns and turf will be reduced from 2 lb ai/A to 1 lb ai/A.
- * Granular lawn products must be watered in.

Entry restrictions residential uses:

Entry Restrictions for non-WPS uses applied as a spray:

Sprays - "Do not enter or allow others to enter until sprays have dried."

Entry Restrictions for non-WPS uses applied as a solid (i.e. granular and watered-in (for occupational use to home lawns):

"Do not enter or allow others to enter the treated area until dusts have settled. If soil incorporation is required after application, do not enter or allow others to enter the treated area (except those persons involved in the incorporation) until the incorporation is complete. If the incorporation is accomplished by watering-in, do not enter or allow others to enter the treated area until the surface is dry after the watering-in.

Summary: Starting in October persons who purchase certain atrazine products will note an orange sticker on the container label and a supplemental label for the product. They should be advised to review the supplemental label to be certain they can use the product according to the new label instructions.

Examples of the sticker and supplemental labels for Syngenta's atrazine products can be found at <http://www.syngentacropprotection-us.com/prod/herbicide/Atrazine/index.asp?nav=relabeling>

The atrazine IRED can be found at http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/atrazine_ired.pdf

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Last week I sent out a message regarding label changes for herbicide products containing atrazine. Today I received a update from EPA on atrazine products labeled for residential use. According to the chemical review manager for the herbicide, EPA is finalizing plans to do the following:

* For residential products with less than 4% ai, EPA plans to allow existing stocks to be used, but will require the registrant of such products to have new labels on new product they produce within 6 months after they receive the EPA approved label. This means that product in the hands of dealer/distributors will not need to have sticker and supplemental labeling like that required for restricted use atrazine products.

* For the few residential products that contain greater than 4% ai atrazine, EPA plans to allow existing stocks to be used, but any new product produced must immediately have the new label after the registrant receives the approved label. (Since EPA is requiring any product with greater than 4% ai to be classified as restricted use, it should be assumed that these products will disappear from the residential user market.)

I am sure there will be more updates as this process moves along.

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