



California Notice 2012-07

POST UNTIL August 24, 2012

NOTICE OF FINAL DECISION CONCERNING REEVALUATION OF CERTAIN FIELD FUMIGANT PESTICIDE PRODUCTS

The Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) files this notice with the Secretary of the Resources Agency for posting pursuant to Title 3, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Articles 8 and 12. CCR requires the Secretary of the Resources Agency and DPR to post this notice for 30 days for public inspection.

REEVALUATION

On January 18, 2008 (California Notice 2008-01), DPR commenced reevaluation of certain field soil fumigant products containing one or more of the following active ingredients: methyl bromide, 1,3-dichloropropene, chloropicrin, metam-sodium, metam-potassium, dazomet, and sodium tetrathiocarbonate. This reevaluation involved 13 registrants and 74 pesticide products. A list of products included in the reevaluation is available on DPR's Web site at http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/vocs/vocproj/voc_reg_issues.htm. As of June 2012, the reevaluation includes 62 products and 12 registrants.

BASIS OF REEVALUATION

DPR placed certain pesticide products intended for use in field fumigation and containing one or more of the active ingredients named in California Notice 2008-01, in reevaluation based on concern over release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the atmosphere from these products. Fumigants are among the highest pesticide VOC contributors due to both their high levels of use and high emission potential.

The U.S. Clean Air Act (CAA) requires states to submit state implementation plans (SIPs) for implementing, maintaining, and enforcing national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for air pollutants, such as ozone, in each air quality control region of California. Any region that does not meet the NAAQS for a given pollutant is designated as a federal non-attainment area (NAA). In 1994, to address several California air quality control regions that did not meet NAAQS for ozone, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) submitted a SIP to the U.S. EPA that included a pesticide element (Pesticide SIP). In the Pesticide SIP, DPR committed to reducing VOC emissions from agricultural and commercial structural-use pesticides by specified amounts within specified time periods for five NAAs. For the purposes of the emission inventory, DPR historically assumed 100 percent of applied fumigants volatilize to the air. However, field monitoring data show that fumigant emissions are less than 100 percent and vary with fumigant and application method.



Pursuant to this reevaluation, DPR required registrants with pesticide products intended for use in field fumigation containing one or more of the following active ingredients: methyl bromide, 1,3-dichloropropene, chloropicrin, metam-sodium, metam-potassium, dazomet, and sodium tetrathiocarbonate to submit ambient or direct flux monitoring studies under a variety of prescribed field fumigation application methods.

FUMIGANT REGULATIONS

In January of 2008, DPR put into place regulations designed to keep VOC emissions below a target level and reduce emissions from certain field fumigants containing one or more of the following active ingredients: methyl bromide, 1,3-dichloropropene, chloropicrin, metam-sodium, metam-potassium, dazomet, and sodium tetrathiocarbonate. The regulations focus on field applications, made between May 1 and October 31 in the five NAAs, using specific “standardized” and low-emission fumigation methods.

SUMMARY OF REEVALUATION

At this point in time, DPR has determined that it has adequate flux monitoring data for most field soil fumigant application methods used in California. DPR is also working to modify and verify the computer model HYDRUS for use in determining any needed flux data for current and new fumigant application methods. In addition, the fumigant regulations mentioned above are sufficient to meet VOC non-attainment goals and comply with the SIP.

FINAL REEVALUATION DECISION

DPR determined that the reevaluation has provided all the required data needed for the development and implementation of regulations to reduce VOC emissions from field fumigants. No additional mitigation of field fumigant VOC emissions is necessary at this time. Therefore, this reevaluation is concluded.

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Original signed by

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