
EPA's Plans to Address Spray Drift

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Overview

- Background

- Spray Drift Work Group Recommendations and EPA's Plan
 - Scope
 - Labeling
 - Education, Training and Stewardship
 - Technologies to Mitigate Drift
 - Design Standards vs. Performance Standards
 - Tailoring Regulatory Restrictions to Local Conditions
 - Real-World Impacts of Labeling
 - CWA/FIFRA Overlap

Background

- EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and Office of Water established the Spray Drift Workgroup under the auspices of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee to seek stakeholder input on how to mitigate risks to water from pesticide spray drift
- The Spray Drift Workgroup met multiple times to discuss spray drift issues and develop recommendations for EPA, 2007.
- Separately, EPA has been developing a voluntary program to encourage development, verification, use of reduced drift technologies.

Background

- **Workgroup's report includes recommendations for:**
 - Labeling
 - Regulatory Strategies (i.e., the role of “design” and “performance” standards and tailoring requirements to address local conditions)
 - How to Determine the Real World Impact of Pesticide Labeling
 - Promoting the Development and Use of Drift Mitigation Technologies
 - Education, Training, and Stewardship Programs
 - CWA / FIFRA Overlap

- **EPA developed a plan to address the recommendations for each topic**

Scope

- The Spray Drift Workgroup focused on
 - Labeling to mitigate spray drift
 - Education, training, and stewardship
 - Practices and equipment to mitigate drift
- EPA decided that issues regarding the NPDES rulemaking and volatilization fell outside the scope of the Spray Drift Workgroup charge.

Labeling

- **Recommendation:** Standardize labeling statements for spray drift mitigation

- **EPA Actions:**
 - Draft Pesticide Registration Notice, 2008
 - Internal SOP for regulatory risk assessments
 - Develop a process for OW and OPPTS to coordinate on review of spray drift labeling
 - Develop guidance for state lead agencies and tribes for implementing new spray drift labeling

Labeling

- **Recommendation:** Consider far-reaching changes to pesticide labeling to ensure drift labeling receive sufficient prominence
- **EPA Actions:**
 - Develop systematic approach to improve labeling (e.g., web-based distribution)
 - Investigate options for a generic process for stakeholder review of key label statements

Performance Standards vs. Design Standards

- **Examples:**

 - “Do not allow drift at levels that cause harm.” vs.

 - “Do not apply when wind is blowing more than 15 mph.”

- **Recommendation: None**

- **EPA Action:** This issue will be addressed in the draft spray drift Pesticide Registration Notice

Tailoring Regulatory Restrictions to Local Conditions

- **Recommendation:** Work with States and applicators to explore mechanisms that tailor regulatory requirements to local conditions
- **EPA Actions:**
 - OPP work with OW to improve coordination FIFRA decisions with TMDL programs and to get better monitoring data for future registrations

Tailoring Regulatory Restrictions to Local Conditions

■ **EPA Actions** (continued):

- ❑ Evaluate the effectiveness of the regulatory action involving atrazine and how it could be adapted to other situations
- ❑ Discuss with state lead agencies and tribes when to address local conditions at the federal level and what mechanisms are appropriate
- ❑ Explore the value of a voluntary local “Best Management Practices” pilot program

Real-World Impacts of Labeling

- **Recommendation:** Strengthen the collection, use, and public availability of information regarding real world effects of EPA's regulatory approaches (e.g., labeling)
- **EPA Actions:** EPA is reviewing technical, scientific, and management issues associated with the existing incident data systems and will make a presentation to a future PPDC meeting on our proposals for improving their role in the regulatory process

Real-World Impacts of Labeling

- **EPA Actions (continued):**
 - EPA is developing a systematic approach to labeling and will use this project as an opportunity to obtain feedback on user response to labeling

Technologies to Mitigate Drift

- **Recommendation:** Continue support of the Drift Reduction Technology (DRT) project

- **EPA Actions:**
 - Continue DRT project
 - Explore opportunities to work with other foreign and domestic agencies and organizations

EPA's Drift Reduction Technology Project

- Credit verified technologies in marketing, EPA's pesticide registration decisions, labeling, and use in the field
- Use a test protocol to test/verify drift reduction potential of application technologies
 - Beta-test the protocol this spring and summer
- Program will begin late 2008
 - Voluntary for industry

Education, Training and Stewardship

- **Recommendation:** Continue or expand Federal funding of these programs

- **EPA Actions:**
 - Explore mechanisms for evaluating effectiveness of spray drift mitigation training and identifying gaps
 - Provide updates on EPA efforts to enhance training
 - Explore how to promote voluntary site-specific Drift Management Plans
 - Develop Citizen's Guide for spray drift

Thank you for your interest.

