



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## European Union

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

### EU Withdraws 110 Additional Pesticides

### 2003

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**Report Highlights:**

**A further 110 substances used in plant protection products are to be withdrawn from the market by December 2003 as part of the European Commission's review of active substances in plant protection products. These 110 substances are in addition to the 320 that have to be withdrawn from the market in July 2003. Imports of produce treated with these products will continue to be allowed, provided an import tolerance is established.**

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2]  
[E2]

The complete list of the 110 substances that will be banned from the EU market by December 2003 will be published in the Official Journal.

A few temporary derogations will apply in some Member States for some "essential uses". This is for products that are not defended by the manufacturer, but for which there is no readily available alternative for the crops in question and no safety concerns linked to their continued restricted and time-limited use.

Some of the substances banned in the EU possibly may still be authorized in the U.S. and therefore, U.S. industries should review the lists of substances and identify those products that continue to be allowed in the U.S.

For all of the banned substances, the EU MRL's will be reduced to the level of determination (e.g. the level below which residues cannot be detected using suitable methods in accredited laboratories) unless data are provided to justify an import tolerance for these substances. The data could be generated by interested U.S. industries, including growers. A guide on the data requirements for establishing import tolerances is available from the Commission's website at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ph\\_ps/pest/min\\_data\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ph_ps/pest/min_data_en.pdf).

An earlier decision listing the 320 substances to be withdrawn from the EU market by July 2003, was published at

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/l\\_319/l\\_31920021123en00030011.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/l_319/l_31920021123en00030011.pdf)

Including the 320 substances already withdrawn, the 110 additional substances and approximately 20 substances that have been individually evaluated with negative decisions, about 450 active substances will have been withdrawn since the start of the review program based on the rules of Directive 91/414. This represents a decrease in 2003 of more than 50% of all the substances that were on the market in 1993. The status of all products that are under Commission review is updated regularly at the Commission's website at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ph\\_ps/pro/eva/existing/exis02b\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ph_ps/pro/eva/existing/exis02b_en.pdf)

### **Background Directive 91/414**

Directive 91/414 on the authorization, use and control of plant protection products insecticides, fungicides, herbicides etc. was adopted in 1991. It sets up a harmonized authorization system for the active substances used in plant protection products at the EU level. Member States may then approve products containing such EU agreed substances for use in their country. This directive mandates that all existing active substances be reviewed before 2008.

The 1991 rules make EU authorizations of active substances subject to a positive outcome of safety evaluations, for which producers must present data. At the time of adoption of Council Directive 91/414/EEC in 1991, there were over 850 such substances authorized for use in the Member States. All of these substances need to be reviewed before 2008. The current approach requires manufacturers to "defend" plant protection products, proving that their products reach the required safety standards. Most of the products to be withdrawn will be as a result of manufacturers declining to defend their products for economic or other reasons.

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