

Information from Health Canada for agrologists



Health Canada's [Pesticide Compliance Program](#) (PCP) is responsible for promoting, monitoring and enforcing the [Pest Control Products Act](#) (PCPA). The primary objective of the PCPA is to prevent unacceptable risks to human health and the environment from the use of pest control products, also known as pesticides. In Canada, pesticides can also be regulated by provinces, territories and municipalities.

Providing accurate advice

Your clients rely on your expertise in agricultural science to make well-informed decisions about pesticide use.

You play a key role in promoting the safe and responsible use of pesticides. Staying well informed about Health Canada's decisions about pesticides and regulatory changes, as well as sharing up-to-date information, is essential. If a user fails to comply with the PCPA as a result of inaccurate advice, that user is in violation of the PCPA, and the person who provided the advice could also be held liable under the PCPA.

Recommending an unregistered pesticide or the use of a pesticide contrary to label directions may be considered false or misleading advertising under the subsection 6(7) of PCPA. When non-compliance with the PCPA is established, Health Canada may pursue risk-based enforcement action. For more information, consult the [Providing accurate advice on the choice and the use of pesticides](#) factsheet.

Most relevant PCPA requirements for pesticides users

Anyone using pesticides must use products registered in Canada and follow all the label instructions.

6(1) Unregistered pest control products: *No person shall manufacture, possess, handle, store, transport, import, distribute or use a pest control product that is not registered under this Act (...).*

Example of non-compliance:

- Using, possessing or storing pesticides not registered in Canada, including those whose registration has been discontinued, cancelled or not renewed.

6(5) Misuse of pest control products: *No person shall handle, store, transport, use or dispose of a pest control product in a way that is inconsistent with (a) the regulations; or (b) if the product is registered, the directions on the label (...).*

Examples of non-compliance:

- Pesticide applied on a crop not specified on the label.
- Number of applications exceeds the maximum allowed during a growing season.
- Pesticide applied at a higher rate than the maximum allowed.

- Harvesting the crop before the end of the preharvest interval (PHI) specified on label.
- Unauthorized tank mix.
- Failure to wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Target pests not specified on the label.
- Application by drone when not authorized on the label.

Labels are the key to compliance

Every year, a number of pesticides are either no longer authorized for sale in Canada or have updated label directions and conditions of use. Use the Health Canada's online [label search tool](#) or consult the [Pesticide Product Information Database](#) to find the most up-to-date information on registered pesticides. The requirements of the most recent label must always be taken into consideration when providing advice; for instance, on the application rate or the timing of application, as well as on the risk reduction measures such as:

❖ **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

PPE refers to any clothing or equipment worn to minimize pesticide exposure and protect human health. The "Precautions" section on the pesticide label specifies the required PPE. PPE requirements may be different for mixing, loading, or applying a pesticide. Consult the [Personal protective equipment](#) and [Pesticide gloves](#) factsheets.

❖ **Restricted entry interval (REI)**

Period during which agricultural workers, or anyone else, must not perform hand labour in treated areas. Consult the [Understanding restricted-entry intervals for pesticides](#) factsheet.

❖ **Re-entry interval**

Period that must be respected before entering a treated area. Re-entry intervals may be expressed quantitatively (in hours or days) or qualitatively e.g., "until residues are dry".

❖ **Pre-harvest interval (PHI)**

Minimum time between the last pesticide application and crop harvest to ensure residue levels in the treated produce will not exceed the maximum residue limit (MRL). Consult the [Understanding preharvest intervals for pesticides](#) factsheet.

❖ **Vegetative filter strip (VFS)**

Not to be confused with buffer zones, a vegetative filter strip (VFS) is a strip of land with permanent vegetation between a cultivated field and the body of water. Some pesticides require the establishment and maintenance of a VFS. Consult the [Vegetative filter strips](#) factsheet.

❖ **Spray drift mitigation**

Spray drifts are airborne movements of pesticide droplets or particles outside of a target area, occurring during or shortly after spraying. Minimizing spray drift is essential to protect human health and the environment. Drift mitigation measures, including spray droplets size and buffer zone compliance, may be specified on pesticide labels. Consult the [Management of pesticides spray drift: applicator's summary guide](#) factsheet.

Reminders

❖ Tank mixes

As of December 20, 2025, users of pesticides must follow the clarified label instructions regarding tank mixes. Consult the [Health Canada guidance for tank mixes](#) factsheet.

❖ Use of drones for pesticide application

Labels of pesticides registered for drone application bear the words “Remotely Piloted Aircraft System” or “RPAS”. If these terms do not appear on the label, drone use for pesticide application is not permitted under the PCPA. Consult the [Pesticide application by drones](#) factsheet.

Re-evaluation decisions

Pesticides are periodically re-evaluated by Health Canada to ensure they continue to meet health and environmental requirements. Re-evaluation decisions may result in the cancellation of products or specific product uses. Health Canada may also require changes to a product's label, including adding, removing or modifying risk reduction measures, use sites and application methods. Consult the [Decisions and Updates](#) and [Pesticides compliance and enforcement resources](#) webpages.

Report problems involving pesticides

Report suspected non-compliance

If you come across suspected non-compliance with the PCPA, please report it to the Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) at pcp-pcp@hc-sc.gc.ca. You may request anonymity.

Report a pesticide incident

A pesticide incident is a negative effect (adverse reaction) to humans, animals or the environment that can result from being exposed to a pesticide. For more information, consult the [Report a pesticide incident](#) webpage.

For more information

Regulatory framework

Document or Web page	Link
Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)	https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/p-9.01/
Pest Control Products Regulations (PCPR)	https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2006-124/index.html
Health Canada Compliance and enforcement policy for pesticides	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/policies-guidelines/compliance-enforcement-policy-pesticides.html

The above documents are the official Health Canada documents. In the event of any discrepancy with the contents of this information package, the regulatory documents shall prevail.

Pesticide compliance

Document or Web page	Link
Providing accurate advice on the choice and the use of pesticides	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/product-safety/providing-accurate-advice-choice-use-pesticides.html
Label search tool	https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/ls-re/index-eng.php
Pesticide product information database	https://pest-control.canada.ca/pesticide-registry/en/index.html
Personal protective equipment	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/personal-protective-equipment.html
Pesticide gloves	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/pesticide-gloves.html
Understanding restricted-entry intervals for pesticides	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/restricted-entry-intervals.html
Understanding preharvest intervals for pesticides	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/preharvest-intervals.html

Pesticide compliance (continued)

Document or Web page	Link
Vegetative filter strips	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/product-safety/vegetative-filter-strips.html
Management of pesticides spray drift: applicator's summary guide	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/product-safety/management-pesticide-spray-drift-applicators-summary-guide.html
Health Canada guidance for tank mixes	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/product-safety/tank-mixes-guidance.html
Pesticide application by drones	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/product-safety/pesticide-application-drones.html
Decisions and updates	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates.html
Report a pesticide incident	https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public/protecting-your-health-environment/report-pesticide-incident.html

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for the enforcement of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA). Visit canada.ca/pesticide-compliance

Ce document est également disponible en français.