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Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB) (7502C)
Office of pesticide Programs (OPP)
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-001

ATTENTION: DOCKET ID NUMBER OPP-2005-0069
INERT INGREDIENTS: PROPOSAL TO REVOKE 34 PESTICIDE TOLERANCE EXEMPTIONS
FOR 31 CHEMICALS
DATE: JUNE 1, 2005 (VOLUME 70, NUMBER 104)
PAGES 31401-314-05

Dow AgroSciences is pleased to offer comments on the *Proposal to Revoke 34 Pesticide Tolerance Exemptions for 31 Chemicals*, hereafter referred to as the "Inert Revocation Proposal". In the Inert Revocation Proposal, EPA requests comments from registrants regarding usage of certain inerts in active FIFRA pesticide product registrations. Dow AgroSciences respectfully submits the following general comments.

Dow AgroSciences supports the EPA initiative to revoke tolerance exemptions for materials that are no longer used by the Industry. We feel that EPA resources are best used when focused on materials that are actively being used in the marketplace. Many changes have taken place in the usage of inerts since the original creation of the lists of inert ingredients, and we feel it is appropriate for EPA to keep up with these marketplace changes. Dow AgroSciences supports the timely review of new inert materials that are designed to meet marketplace needs in the future. Revocation of tolerance exemptions for older materials allows EPA resources to be focused on evaluation of these newer materials rather than review of materials no longer of interest to the Industry.

We have several points that we would like to raise regarding the clarity of the revocation, and what is and is not included. In addition to making the present proposal clearer, the EPA responses to the comments below will no doubt assist both registrants and the EPA staff in consistently evaluating the acceptability of chemicals in pesticide products going forward.

Impurities in Technical Grade Active Ingredients: The definition of Inert Ingredient in 40 CFR § 158.153 (f) is described as any substance, other than an active ingredient, which is intentionally included in a pesticide product. The Agency should confirm that revocation of the tolerance

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exemptions for the listed materials does not impact their presence as unintentional impurities in registered Technical Grade Active Ingredients or Integrated System products.

Reactive Intermediates or Reagents: The Agency has listed several materials that are used as reagents in preparation of polymeric inert ingredients such as methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate and phosphorus oxychloride. These materials may be listed in the statement of composition, but are consumed during subsequent reaction. The Agency should confirm that these materials do not require tolerance exemptions if they are consumed during manufacture of the final product.

Consistency of Nomenclature for Inerts: The Agency maintains two listing systems for inert ingredients. The system that is referred to in this PR Notice is the nomenclature used in the section of 40 CFR titled, *Tolerances and Exemption for Tolerances for Pesticide Chemicals in Food*. The other listing system is described as the *Categorized Lists of Inert (other) Pesticide Ingredients*. The nomenclature used in these two listing systems is not consistent. For example, Chemical Number 19 listed in the Inert Revocation Proposal is described as Methyl isoamyl ketone. This same material is listed as 5-methyl-2-hexanone in the *Categorized Lists of Inert (other) Pesticide Ingredients* on the EPA website. The inconsistent nomenclature can be confusing. Dow AgroSciences urges EPA to develop one list with consistent nomenclature. If possible, all relevant synonyms should be included. This improvement would benefit the Agency, registrants and the general public.

In summary, Dow AgroSciences is supportive of revocation of tolerance exemptions for inerts which are no longer used to prepare formulated products. We respectfully request that the Agency clarify some aspects of the PR Notice to make this process more transparent for registrants and the general public.

Sincerely,



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Manager
Regulatory Affairs
Dow AgroSciences, LLC