

Clarification of Vikane Label Regarding the Handling of Toothpaste and Mouthwash

Date established

January 31, 2005

Enclosure to Enforcement Letter

Enforcement Letter ENF 05-05

Background

The Department of Pesticide Regulation was asked to issue an interpretation regarding the enforcement of the Vikane label with regards to the removal or double bagging of toothpaste and mouthwash prior to the fumigation of a structure.

Issue

Do items, such as toothpaste or mouthwash, which are put into the mouth, though not intended to be ingested, need to be handled as drugs or medicinals?

This issue could include various other dental hygiene products, such as dental adhesives, teeth whitening products, etc., which also are put into the mouth, and are not intended to be ingested.

Label language

The Vikane label (U.S. EPA registration number 62719-4), under Preparation for Fumigation, Structural Fumigation states “Food, feed, drugs, and medicinals (including those items in refrigerators and freezers) **can remain in the structure if** they are in plastic, glass, or metal bottles, cans, or jars with the original manufacturer’s air-tight seal intact.”

The label also indicates “Food, feed, drugs, and medicinals (including those items in refrigerators and freezers) **not** in plastic, glass, or metal bottles, cans, or jars with the original manufacturer’s air-tight seal intact, **need to be removed from the fumigation site, or double bagged in Nylofume* bags**, which are available from distributors of Vikane gas fumigant.”

Continued on next page

Clarification of Vikane Label Regarding the Handling of Toothpaste and Mouthwash, Continued

**The
Department of
Pesticide
Regulation's
position**

The Department of Pesticide Regulation considers any drug or medicinal type items that enter the mouth to be ingested, either in whole or part. Since, the product manufacturer intended the label language to apply to items being ingested, you should therefore, for enforcement purposes, consider any dental hygiene or similar product entering the mouth to be handled as a drug or medicinal.

This would apply to toothpaste, mouthwash, and other dental hygiene products, such as teeth whiteners, dental adhesives, etc.
