

Evaluation Report for Category B, Subcategory B.2.1 Application

Application Number: 2006-4612
Application: B.2.1 New EP
Product: CatStop Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent
Registration Number: 28930
Active ingredients (a.i.): Device
PMRA Document Number: 1497994

Purpose of Application

Contech Electronics is requesting a domestic class registration for their product CatStop™ Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent (ultrasonic device). This device is for outdoor use only and is intended for use as a cat deterrent in flower beds and other gardens.

Chemistry Assessment

A chemistry assessment was not required for this review.

Health Assessments

CatStop™ Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent has a frequency range of 21 kHz to 26 kHz, a minimum intensity of 115 dB (30 cm from the source), and an approximate maximum intensity of 130 dB.

Exposure to sounds greater than 100 dB within the hearing range of humans can permanently damage the sensitive sensory apparatus of the ear and may contribute to a loss of hearing.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has adopted the airborne high-frequency ultrasonic noise limits from the U.S. Army and suggests that intensity of the ultrasonic noise within the 21 kHz to 26 kHz frequency range should not exceed 105 dB to 110 dB, respectively. CatStop™ Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent will exceed this limit and may result in physiological effects in humans after prolonged exposure.

Very little information could be discerned regarding the potential effects of exposure to ultrasound by companion pets. Domestic cats hear within the frequency range of 45 Hz to 64,000 Hz and dogs are expected to have a slightly tighter range of 67 Hz to 45,000 Hz. As such, it is likely that non-target companion pets may also be affected by prolonged exposure to the ultrasound generated by CatStop™ Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent.

Exposure to the ultrasound emitted by the end-use product is restricted to individuals and/or companion pets which frequent the area in which the ultrasound device has been deployed.

Exposure will vary according to the number of times the device is triggered and the proximity of the individual to the device.

The precautionary statements currently listed on the label are considered adequate to minimize any risk due to exposure.

Environmental Assessment

Based on the nature of the repellent device, (approximately 124 dB ultrasonic sound emitted briefly when triggered), other non-target animals affected by sounds in the ultrasonic range may be repelled when the device is triggered. However, repellent effects are not expected to result in harm. Negligible environmental concern is associated with the intended use of this device.

Value Assessment

Two efficacy studies conducted in Quebec and British Columbia indicated that CatStop ultrasonic devices had a repellent effect on cats. The label claim of “scares cats away” is supported.

Conclusion

The PMRA has completed the review of CatStop™ Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent and is able to support the label claim “scares cats away” when the device is used outdoor only in gardens and flower beds.

References

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PMRA 1548016. Health Canada (1991) Guidelines for the Safe Use of Ultrasound: Part II–Industrial and Commercial Applications; Safety Code 24. Canadian Communication Group–Publishing, Ottawa, Canada, p.1–44.

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