

Evaluation Report for Category B, Subcategory 3.4 Application

Application Number: 2020-2862
Application: Changes to End-Use Product Label – Application Method
Product: BioLink Herbicide EC
Registration Number: 33590
Active ingredients (a.i.): Capric Acid and Caprylic Acid
PMRA Document Number: 3314662

Purpose of Application

The purpose of this application was to amend the label of BioLink Herbicide EC by adding the use for crop desiccation and as a harvest aid in various crops.

Chemistry Assessment

A chemistry assessment was not required for this application.

Health Assessments

BioLink Herbicide EC is of low acute oral, dermal, and inhalation toxicity, moderately irritating to the eyes, mildly irritating to the skin, and is not a dermal sensitizer.

Potential exposure to capric acid and caprylic acid may occur by applying the end-use product or entering treated sites. Occupational exposure to individuals handling BioLink Herbicide EC is not expected to result in unacceptable risk when the product is used according to label directions. Precautionary and hygiene statements on the product label aimed at mitigating worker exposure are considered adequate to protect individuals from any unnecessary risk due to occupational exposure.

Bystander exposure is expected to result in acceptable risk when the product is used according to label directions.

Health risks to individuals in residential areas are considered acceptable when the product is used according to label directions.

Maximum Residue Limit

As part of the assessment process prior to the registration of a pesticide, Health Canada must determine that the consumption of the maximum amount of residues that are expected to remain on food products when a pesticide is used according to label directions will not be a concern to human health. This maximum amount of residues expected is then legally specified as a maximum residue limit (MRL) under the *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)* for the purposes of adulteration provision of the *Food and Drugs Act*. Health Canada specifies science-based MRLs to ensure the food Canadians eat is safe.

The use for BioLink Herbicide EC as a desiccate and harvest aid on potato, sweet potato, and sugar beet will not result in an increase in dietary risks from food or drinking water. Consequently, the specification of an MRL for capric acid and caprylic acid under the *PCPA* is not required.

Environmental Assessment

The amendment to add the desiccation use to BioLink Herbicide EC label will pose acceptable risks to the environment when label recommendations are followed. Environmental concerns have been mitigated through adequate statements on the product label.

Value Assessment

Expansion of the BioLink Herbicide EC label to include the use for crop desiccation and as a harvest aid in potato, sweet potato and sugar beet provides users an alternative tool to minimize difficulties at harvest by drying down these crops and reducing green plants in the fields.

Value information submitted for review consisted of a scientific rationale and data from replicated field trials, which were conducted in the US and Switzerland. The environmental and soil conditions in the trial sites were representative of those for Canada. This information collectively demonstrated that the application of BioLink Herbicide EC as per the label instructions could provide acceptable crop desiccation and improve harvest quality of potatoes. The quality of harvested potato tubers were not affected.

The results observed in the potato trials can be extrapolated to sweet potato and sugar beet based on the herbicide mode of action and the similarity of agronomic characteristics of these root and tuber vegetables.

Conclusion

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency has completed an assessment of the information provided, and has found it sufficient to support the amendment to the label of BioLink Herbicide EC to add the use for crop desiccation and as a harvest aid in various crops.

References

PMRA Document Number	Reference
3135656	2020, BioLink Herbicide EC as a desiccant for tuber crops, pulse crops, and grains desiccation - Data, justifications, and rationales, DACO: 10.2.1, 10.2.3.1, and 10.2.3.3(B).
3220080	2021, Tuber pre-harvest desiccation, DACO: 10.2.3.3(B) and 10.3.2(A).

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