

entry for stone fruit, except plum (fresh prune) tolerance at 6.0 ppm as a higher tolerance of 10 ppm for fruit, stone, group 12 (post harvest) is proposed herein.

A. Residue Chemistry

1. *Plant metabolism.* The qualitative nature of fenhexamid residues in plants is adequately understood.

2. *Analytical method.* An adequate method for purposes of enforcement of the proposed fenhexamid tolerances in plant commodities is available.

3. *Magnitude of residues.* The magnitude of residues for fenhexamid on the proposed commodities is adequately understood.

B. Toxicological Profile

In the **Federal Register** of February 8, 2002 (67 FR 6028) (FRL-6821-2), EPA published the Notice of Filing proposing the establishment of tolerances for residues of fenhexamid on a number of raw agricultural commodities, including caneberry, *et. al.* That publication summarizes in detail the current state of knowledge regarding the toxicological profile of fenhexamid including aggregate exposure assessment and determination of safety. Interested readers are referred to that document for specific information under Unit II.

C. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure*—i. *Food.* Dietary exposure to fenhexamid is limited to the established tolerances for residues of fenhexamid on grapes (at 4.0 ppm), raisins (at 6.0 ppm), strawberries (at 3.0 ppm), almond nutmeat (at 0.02 ppm), almond hulls (at 2.0 ppm), stonefruit (pre-harvest, at 5.0 ppm), pear (at 15 ppm), bushberries (at 5.0 ppm), caneberries (at 20 ppm), and pistachios (at 0.02 ppm); the proposed tolerances in the current submission which are as follows: Cucumber (at 2.0 ppm), crop group 8 (fruiting vegetables, at 2.0 ppm), kiwi (post-harvest, at 15.0 ppm), lettuce (at 30.0 ppm), and crop group 12 (stonefruit, pre-harvest and post-harvest, at 10.0 ppm).

ii. *Drinking water.* Review of the environmental fate data indicates that fenhexamid is relatively immobile and rapidly degrades in the soil and water. Fenhexamid dissipates in the environment via several processes. Therefore, Arvesta Corporation believes that a significant contribution to aggregate risk from fenhexamid in drinking water is unlikely.

2. *Non-dietary exposure.* There is no significant potential for non-occupational exposure to the general public. The proposed uses are limited to agricultural and horticultural use.

D. Cumulative Effects

Consideration of a common mechanism of toxicity is not appropriate at this time since it has a unique mode of action. Moreover, there is no significant toxicity observed for fenhexamid. Even at toxicology limit doses, only minimal toxicity is observed for fenhexamid. Therefore, Arvesta Corporation concludes that only the potential risks of fenhexamid are considered in the exposure assessment.

E. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population.* Considering that the percent of the chronic population adjusted dose (cPAD) utilized by all current uses (almonds, bushberries, caneberries, grapes, pear, pistachios, raisins, pre-harvest stonefruit, and strawberry) is estimated to be 7% in the **Federal Register** of April 18, 2002 (67 FR 19114) (FRL-6829-9); considering also the proposed tolerances, proportion of the crops treated and their importance in the diet, the percent of the cPAD utilized by the proposed uses is estimated to 14%. Therefore, Arvesta Corporation believes that the estimates of dietary exposure indicate adequate safety margins for the overall U.S. population.

2. *Infants and children.* Considering that the percent of the cPAD utilized by all current uses (almonds, bushberries, caneberries, grapes, pear, pistachios, raisins, pre-harvest stonefruit, and strawberry) is estimated to be 66% (infants) and 17% (children) (67 FR 19114, April 18, 2002); considering also the proposed tolerances, proportion of the crops treated and their importance in the diet, the percent of the cPAD utilized by the proposed uses is estimated to 11% (infants) and 13% (children). Therefore, the estimates of dietary exposure indicate adequate safety margins for children. In assessing the potential for additional sensitivity of infants and children to residues of fenhexamid, the available developmental toxicity and reproductive toxicity studies and the potential for endocrine modulation by fenhexamid were considered. Developmental toxicity studies in two species indicate that fenhexamid does not impose additional risks to developing fetuses and is not a teratogen. The 2-generation reproduction study in rats demonstrated that there were no adverse effects on reproductive performance, fertility, fecundity, pup survival, or pup development at non-maternally toxic levels. Maternal and developmental no observed adverse effect levels (NOAELs) and lowest observed adverse effect

levels (LOAELs) were comparable, indicating no increase in susceptibility of developing organisms. No evidence of endocrine effects was noted in any study. It is therefore concluded by Arvesta Corporation that fenhexamid poses no additional risk for infants and children and no additional uncertainty factor is warranted.

F. International Tolerances

International tomato tolerances are in effect in France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey (1 ppm), and other European countries (2 ppm). Kiwi tolerances are as follows: Greece, Italy, and Slovenia (10 ppm). Stonefruit tolerances already exist in the U.S. for pre-harvest applications as well as in Canada (6 ppm), Austria (cherry, 5 ppm; plum, 2 ppm); Belgium (cherry, 5 ppm); Germany and Slovenia (cherry, 5 ppm; peach and plum, 2 ppm), Italy (cherry, 5 ppm; apricot, peach, and plum 2 ppm); Japan (peach, 1 ppm), Switzerland (cherry, 2 ppm) and the United Kingdom (plum, 1 ppm), and other European countries (peach and plum, 1 ppm; cherry, 5 ppm).

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BILLING CODE 6560-60-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2003-0167; FRL-7306-9]

Carbofuran; Receipt of Applications for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received specific exemption requests from the Texas Department of Agriculture; the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to use the pesticide flowable carbofuran (Furadan 4F Insecticide/Nematicide) (EPA Reg. No. 279-2876) to treat up to 1.8 million acres of cotton in Texas; 100,000 acres of cotton in Oklahoma; and 500,000 acres of cotton in Louisiana to control cotton aphid. The Applicants propose the use of a chemical which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, and is intended for a use that could pose a risk similar to the risk posed by uses evaluated under the Special Review. The granular formulation of carbofuran was the subject of a Special Review between the years of 1986-1991, which resulted in a negotiated settlement whereby most of

the registered uses of granular carbofuran were phased out. While the flowable formulation of carbofuran is not the subject of a Special Review, EPA believes that the proposed use of flowable carbofuran on cotton could pose a risk similar to the risk assessed by EPA under the Special Review of granular carbofuran. EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption.

DATES: Written comments, identified by docket ID number OPP-2003-0167, must be received on or before June 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen A. Schaible, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 308-9362; fax number: (703) 308-6920; e-mail address: schaible.stephen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are a Federal or State government agency (NAICS 9241) involved in administration of environmental quality programs.

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in this unit could also be affected. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

1. **Docket.** EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2003-0167. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public

docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. **Electronic access.** You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing

copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are mailed or delivered to the Docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments. If you wish to submit CBI or information that is otherwise protected by statute, please follow the instructions in Unit I.D. Do not use EPA Dockets or e-mail to submit CBI or information protected by statute.

1. **Electronically.** If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed in this unit, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once in the system, select "search," and then key in docket ID number OPP-2003-0167. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by e-mail to opp-docket@epa.gov, Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0167. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Unit I.C.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By mail.* Send your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB) (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001, Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0167.

3. By hand delivery or courier. Deliver your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0167. Such deliveries are only accepted during the docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Unit I.B.1.

D. How Should I Submit CBI to the Agency?

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically through EPA's electronic public docket or by e-mail. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI

on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternative ways to improve the notice.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this document.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket ID number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

II. Background

What Action is the Agency Taking?

Under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136p), at the discretion of the Administrator, a Federal or State agency may be exempted from any provision of FIFRA if the Administrator determines that emergency conditions exist which require the exemption. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; the Oklahoma Department of

Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; and the Texas Department of Agriculture have requested the Administrator to issue specific exemptions for the use of carbofuran on cotton to control cotton aphids. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

As part of this request, the Applicants assert that the States of Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas are likely to experience non-routine infestations of aphids during the 2003 cotton growing season. The Applicants further claim that resistance to currently registered alternatives may occur and that without a specific exemption from registration under FIFRA for the use of flowable carbofuran on cotton to control cotton aphids, cotton growers in these states will suffer significant economic losses.

The Applicants propose to make no more than two applications of flowable carbofuran on cotton at the rate of 0.25 lb. active ingredient (a.i.) (8 fluid ounces) in a minimum of 2 gallons of finished spray per acre by air, or 10 gallons of finished spray per acre by ground application. The total maximum proposed use during the 2003 growing season (April 1, 2003 - October 31, 2003 in Texas, July 1, 2003 - October 15, 2003 in Oklahoma, and June 1, 2003 - September 30, 2003 in Louisiana) would be 0.5 lb. a.i. (16 fl. oz.) per acre. The Applicants propose that the maximum acreage which could be treated under the requested exemptions would be 1.8 million acres in Texas; 100,000 acres in Oklahoma; and 500,000 acres in Louisiana. If all of these acres were treated at the maximum proposed rates and for the maximum allowed number of times, 900,000 lb. a.i. (225,000 gallons of Furadan 4F Insecticide/Nematicide) would be used in Texas, 50,000 lb. a.i. would be used in Oklahoma, and 250,000 lb. a.i. would be used in Louisiana.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the application itself. The regulations governing section 18 of FIFRA require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing use of a chemical (i.e., an active ingredient) which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and is intended for a use that could pose a risk similar to the risk posed by uses evaluated under the Special Review. The granular formulation of carbofuran was the subject of a Special Review between the years of 1986-1991, which resulted in a negotiated settlement whereby most of the registered uses of granular carbofuran were phased out. While the flowable formulation of carbofuran is

not the subject of a Special Review, EPA believes that the proposed use of flowable carbofuran on cotton could pose a risk similar to the risk assessed by EPA under the Special Review of granular carbofuran. The notice provides an opportunity for public comment on the application.

The Agency, will review and consider all comments received during the comment period in determining whether to issue the specific exemptions requested by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: May 8, 2003.

Debra Edwards,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 03-12483 Filed 5-20-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2003-0143; FRL-7394-1]

Issuance of an Experimental Use Permit

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has granted an experimental use permit (EUP) to HBB Partnership. An EUP permits use of a pesticide for experimental or research purposes only in accordance with the limitations in the permit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Greenway, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 308-8263; e-mail address: greenway.denise@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. Although this action may be of particular interest to those persons who conduct or sponsor research on pesticides, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions

regarding the information in this action, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2003-0143. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

II. EUP

EPA has issued the following EUP: 75108-EUP-1. *Issuance.* HBB Partnership, 5151 N. Palm Ave., Suite 820, Fresno, CA 93704-2221. This EUP allows the use of 1.46 pounds of the California red scale pheromone, (3S, 6R)-3-methyl-6-isopropenyl-9-decen-1-yl acetate and (3S, 6S)-3-methyl-6-isopropenyl-9-decen-1-yl acetate, on 4,050 acres of citrus, as a mating disruptor, to evaluate the control of California red scale. The program is authorized only in the States of Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, and Texas. The EUP is effective from April 3, 2003

to September 30, 2003. The experimental use of this new pheromone active ingredient, delivered by dispenser, is covered by the tolerance exemptions established at 40 CFR 180.1122 and 180.1124.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136c.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Experimental use permits.

Dated: May 7, 2003.

Janet L. Andersen,

Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 03-12481 Filed 5-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7501-8]

A Review of the Reference Dose and Reference Concentration Processes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of a final report.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Risk Assessment Forum (RAF) announces the availability of a final report, A Review of the Reference Dose and Reference Concentration Processes (EPA/630/P-02/002F, December 2002).

ADDRESSES: The document is available electronically through the Risk Assessment Forum's Web site (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/raf/recordisplay.cfm?deid=55365>). A limited number of paper copies will be available from the EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP), P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242; telephone: 1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190; facsimile: 513-489-8695. Please provide your name and mailing address and the title and EPA number of the requested publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carole Kimmel, National Center for Environmental Assessment, (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: 202-564-3307; facsimile: 202-565-0078; email: kimmel.carole@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This report, entitled, "A Review of the Reference Dose and Reference Concentration Processes," summarizes the review and deliberations of the Risk