

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



**US Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Pesticide Programs**


**Azinphos-Methyl (AZM) Registration  
Review Status**

**October 2008**

# **Azinphos-methyl Registration Review Status October 2008**

**Case #0235**

Approved By:

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Director, Special Review and  
Reregistration Division

## **Introduction**

The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 mandated a registration review program. All pesticides distributed or sold in the United States generally must be registered by EPA, based on scientific data showing that they will not cause unreasonable risks to human health, workers, or the environment when used as directed on product labeling. The new registration review program is intended to make sure that, as the ability to assess risk evolves and as policies and practices change, all registered pesticides continue to meet the FIFRA statutory standard for registration of no unreasonable adverse effects. Changes in science, public policy, and pesticide use practices will occur over time. Through the new registration review program, the Agency periodically reevaluates pesticides to make sure that as change occurs, products in the marketplace can be used safely. Information on this program is provided at: [http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration\\_review/](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/).

## **Status Update for Azinphos-Methyl**

### *Final Decision and Phase Out:*

This is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's or the Agency's) status update for the registration review of azinphos-methyl (AZM). AZM is an organophosphate (OP) pesticide that poses health risks to farm workers, pesticide applicators, and aquatic ecosystems. AZM also provides important pest control for tree fruit, blueberries, and other use sites.

On November 16, 2006, EPA issued its final decision on AZM to phase out all remaining uses by September 30, 2012. This decision was based on the Agency's reevaluation of the risks and benefits of the remaining uses of AZM, and a thorough consideration of public comments. EPA's February 20, 2008, product cancellation order confirmed and finalized that decision (73 FR 9328).

As a result of these actions, the use of AZM on Brussels sprouts and nursery stock is now prohibited. As of October 30, 2009, use of AZM on almonds, pistachios, and walnuts will be prohibited. As of September 30, 2012, use of AZM will be prohibited on the last remaining uses: alkali bee beds, apples, blueberries, cherries, parsley, and pears. All other uses of AZM have already been voluntarily cancelled by the manufacturer.

The final AZM Decision Document and supporting materials are available electronically at [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov) in docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0061.

## **Anticipated Actions**

The Agency expects growers using AZM for the remaining "phase out" uses will successfully transition to the available alternative pesticides that pose fewer risks. Many new alternatives have been registered since the Agency's previous benefits (grower impact) assessment was conducted in 2001 as part of the AZM Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (IREED). These

new chemistries are more costly and generally require more precise application. Crop experts point out the importance of adopting these innovations gradually, so that growers learn appropriate application techniques and gain confidence in the efficacy of the new pesticides.

Also, international maximum residue levels (MRLs) have not been established for many alternatives in several key export markets. Establishing MRLs has historically been a lengthy process of 6-7 years, but EPA believes that MRLs for AZM alternatives can be achieved faster. MRLs are important so that food or feed legally treated with a pesticide in the U.S. can be exported in compliance with international food safety standards.

Because of mitigation measures already in effect on product labeling, EPA believes that the transition away from AZM can be managed in a way that minimizes risks to farm workers and the environment. Since AZM is being phased out, no additional action is anticipated at this time in registration review.