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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

July 16, 1998

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Methomyl fly bait use sites
DP Barcode D245725, Chemical #090301

FROM: Jerome Blondell, Ph.D., Health Statistician
Chemistry and Exposure Branch 2
Health Effects Division (7509C)

THRU: Susan V. Hummel, Senior Scientist
Chemistry and Exposure Branch 2
Health Effects Division (7509C)

TO: Thomas Harris
Insecticide/Rodenticide Branch
Registration Division (7505C)

BACKGROUND

A review of exposures reported to Poison Control Centers from 1985 through 1992 revealed several hundred cases of children who ingested one percent methomyl fly baits. The manufacturers of the fly bait agreed to make changes to the bait and its packaging to make it less available to young children. Initially labels were designed that would limit use to commercial feed lots, broiler houses, livestock barns, kennels, canneries, beverage processing plants, and other commercial sites where young children would not normally be present. One of the manufacturers has now requested that commercial dumpsters be added to the lists of acceptable sites for use of the scatter bait.

REVIEW AND CONCLUSION

More children under age six are exposed to various types of baits than any other type of formulation. This is because baits are usually placed on the floor where young children will find them. On account of the large number of cases involving children and methomyl fly baits the registrants met with EPA. It was agreed that only sites to be approved would be those where young children

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under age six would not occur and where the baits were most needed for fly control. An additional request has been made to include commercial refuse dumpsters as an approved site for use.

Sometimes older children (age four years and above) may play outdoors around commercial areas. However, the danger of accidental ingestion in these children is minimal. Poison Control Center data clearly show that the principal risk is to children age one to three years old. Generally such children will not be outside the home unless supervised and would not be allowed to play in areas such as around a commercial dumpster. By far, the majority of ingestions in this age group are residential. Therefore, the use of a scatter bait around commercial dumpster is not expected to pose a significant risk to very young children.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health Effects Division recommends that the site for commercial dumpster be permitted on labels for methomyl fly baits.

cc: Correspondence
Methomyl file (chemical no.090301)

RDI: BRSrSci:SHummel: