

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## Distribution of Documents on the Internet

The FIFRA Docket for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is a resource maintained to provide the public with access to pesticide related information produced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). OPP currently maintains three individual dockets, the Federal Register, the Special Review, and the Special Programs docket. Docket information may include minutes of meetings with agency and outside parties, public comments, and other correspondence between EPA and outside parties. In addition, the OPP Docket maintains Pesticide Regulatory Notices (PR-Notices), Reregistration Eligibility Decision Documents, and various chemical fact sheets

Documents in the OPP Docket are assigned an identification number and one of three suffixes, "A", "B", or "C". The suffix identifies the release category of each document. Documents in suffix category A are documents that may be released to anyone. Documents in suffix category B may only be released to persons who submit a signed Affirmation of Non-Multinational Status form. Category C documents have been claimed as confidential business information by the submitter. Requests for C documents are processed under the Freedom of Information Act and EPA's public information regulations at 40 CFR Part 2, subpart B.

### Office of Pesticide Programs Procedure for Posting Preliminary Risk Assessment Documents on the Internet

As a result of discussions with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), EPA has decided to release preliminary risk assessments for all organophosphates as a pilot process to increase transparency. Like other OPP documents, OPP will disseminate these documents through the OPP Docket. The docket for each preliminary risk assessment for each organophosphate will be categorized according to the standard procedures described above. Category A releasable documents are available in the docket and via the Internet. OPP has used the following pilot process for disseminating documents.

1. Prior to public distribution of preliminary risk assessment documents, OPP will provide the technical registrant(s) (i.e., owners of the data) 30 days to review the preliminary risk assessment and provide comments to correct errors and identify any confidential business information that should be excluded from public release.
2. EPA will review any comments provided and may make corrections if necessary and appropriate. If minor errors exist, EPA will acknowledge such errors and correct those which can be done quickly.
3. EPA will then publish a notice of availability of the preliminary risk assessment in the Federal Register and place the risk assessment in the public docket appropriately categorized as A, B or C. The docket includes documentation of any comments from the

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registrant and EPA's response to the comment.

4. At the end of the registrants' 30-day comment period, EPA will also publish, via the Internet, all preliminary risk assessment material categorized as A. Each preliminary risk assessment posted on the Internet will have an introduction titled, "Note to Reader," and the following disclaimer language:

The analyses contained in this docket are preliminary in nature and represent the information available to EPA at the time they were prepared. Additional information may have been submitted to EPA which has not yet been incorporated into these analyses, and registrants or others may be developing relevant information. It is common and appropriate that new information and analyses will be used to revise and refine the evaluations contained in these dockets to make them more comprehensive and realistic. The Agency cautions against premature conclusions based on these preliminary assessments and against any use of information contained in these documents out of their full context. Throughout this process, if unacceptable risks are identified, EPA will act to reduce or eliminate the risks.

In addition, the description on the Internet will explain how to access the official docket.

5. Any comments on the preliminary risk assessment submitted to OPP by the registrants during the initial 30-day comment period described in Item 1 and EPA's response will also be posted on the Internet.
6. Suffix category B documents, those only releaseable to persons who submit a signed Affirmation of Non-Multinational Status form, will **not** be posted on the Internet. Suffix category C documents containing asserted confidential business information claims will **not** be posted on the Internet. These documents will only be released through the Freedom of Information Act process pursuant to EPA's public information regulations at 40 CFR Part 2, subpart B.

### **Office of Pesticide Programs Procedure for Posting Final Risk Assessments and Risk Management Proposals on the Internet**

The final risk assessment and EPA's response to comments, if any, will be placed in the docket and posted on the Internet, using the same restrictions stated above.

When a docket is opened for risk management proposals, all items used to open the docket also will be posted on the Internet.

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