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ERC2010-10, Hydrogen Peroxide

## Consumer Product Safety

### Evaluation of Pesticide Incident Report 2010-3411

#### Background

Pest control products are only registered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for use if there is reasonable certainty that no harm to human health or the environment will result from exposure to, or use of, the product as directed on the label. The PMRA collects incident reporting data under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*. If a pesticide manufacturer receives information about an incident involving one of their products, they are required by law to submit that information to the PMRA. It is important to note that the information presented in incident reports reflects the observations and opinion of the person reporting it, and does not include any assessment by Health Canada, nor does it confirm an association between the pesticide and the effects reported.

Health Canada considers the reported information to determine if there are potential health or environmental risks associated with a pesticide and, if necessary, takes corrective action. Such action could range from minor label changes to discontinuation of the product.

#### Incident Report 2010-3411

Scotts Canada Ltd. received information about an incident related to one of their products, which they submitted to the PMRA on July 28, 2010. The information provided in the incident report was very limited. Details relating to the specific product used, the exposure scenario, and the effects noted were lacking. Also, the product name provided in the report does not coincide with any product registered for use in Canada. The information that was provided in the incident report indicated that an individual was potentially exposed to a product containing the active ingredients 2,4-D and dicamba. A few days after spraying the diluted product, the individual was hospitalized with unspecified liver, renal, pancreatic and splenic "issues", a skin rash (on both legs), shortness of breath, jaundice and hyperglycemia. In accordance with the Incident Reporting Regulations classification system, this incident was classified as Human Major. This incident report is posted on the PMRA electronic [Public Registry](#) on the Health Canada website.

#### Health Canada Evaluation

In this incident, there was no physical evidence, such as laboratory results, available to confirm that exposure to 2,4-D or dicamba had occurred. There may be several other causes of the reported effects that cannot be ruled out. A review of Canadian and U.S. incident reporting information indicated that there is no clear trend for any of the symptoms reported, with the exception of rash that has been reported for a number of incidents. Similarly, except for skin reactions such as a rash that could occur upon dermal contact, none of the symptoms reported are expected to result from short-term exposure to 2,4-D or dicamba, particularly at the low levels (<1%) present in products registered by Scotts Canada Ltd.

It was indicated in the report that "the doctors believe his symptoms may be an adverse reaction to an antibiotic he had been taking." However, without further details relating to the exposure scenario and the symptoms noted, or a more definitive diagnosis by the individual's physicians, there is insufficient information at this time to determine if there exists a causal relationship between the pesticide and the effects noted in this incident.

## Health Canada Conclusion

Based on the information provided in this incident report, it is concluded that there is **insufficient information** reported in the incident related to both exposure and the symptoms to determine if the effects noted were related to exposure to 2,4-D and dicamba.

The information as noted in the incident will remain in the database and will be routinely re-examined in conjunction with any new data that is received. It is important to note that a product is only registered for use if there is reasonable certainty that no harm to human health or the environment will result from exposure to or use of the product as directed on the label.

More information about the [Incident Reporting Program](#) is available on Health Canada's website. Should you require further information please contact the [Pesticide Incident Reporting Program](#).

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