Health Canada Santé Canada

Canada

Consumer Product Safety

Evaluation of Pesticide Incident Report 2009-5394

Background

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (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. All submitted incident reports are made publicly available on the Health Canada website, specifically, on the PMRA Public Registry. 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 2009-5394

An incident report submitted by United Agri Products Canada, Inc. was received by the PMRA on December 16, 2009. The information contained in the incident report indicated that the individual reported exposure to the product Par III (PCP# 27884, containing the active ingredients 2,4-D, mecoprop-p and dicamba) on two separate occasions. According to the individual, in 1997 the product was sprayed outside, and then drifted into her home. She experienced seizures over the next eight years whenever she was around other chemicals. In 2006, the individual sustained dermal and respiratory exposure while walking past someone spraying the product. The individual claimed that the exposure resulted in exacerbation of a previous skin condition that led to flushing, scabbing and scarring of her skin. The individual did see a physician sometime following the second exposure and was using topical cortisone for follicular eczema at the time of the report. In accordance with the Incident Reporting Regulations classification system, this incident was classified as Human Major.

In February, 2010, the individual followed up with further information about the incident. She indicated that, in addition to the symptoms that she had previously identified, other symptoms included trouble breathing, tachycardia, chronic bronchitis, chest pain upon exertion, emphysema and loss of consciousness. She specified that the seizures that she had been having were myoclonic seizures.

As required by the *Pest Control Products Incident Reporting Regulations*, United Agri Products, Canada Inc., submitted the incident report to the PMRA and it is posted on the PMRA electronic Public Registry on the Health Canada website.

Health Canada Evaluation

Pest control products are evaluated for their potential to cause a range of effects including irritation, sensitization and acute to long-term toxicity (including monitoring for clinical signs such as seizures) in order to determine their acceptability for registration.

According to the available toxicological information, direct contact with Par III may cause severe irritation to the eyes, the skin and mucous membranes.

However in this incident, there was no physical evidence available to confirm that exposure to Par III had occurred. There may be several other causes of the reported effects that cannot be ruled out. The seizures, tachycardia and respiratory effects that the individual experienced, as indicated in the incident report, do not appear to be consistent with inhalation of Par III. Based on available information, it is concluded that it is **unlikely** (where the effect reported is not typical for the suspected pesticide but the possibility that exposure to the pesticide caused the effect cannot be ruled out) that the major symptoms of 'myoclonic seizure' and 'tachycardia' noted in this incident report were related to exposure to Par III. However, it is possible that if dermal exposure to Par III occurred, it could have triggered a pre-existing skin condition.

Health Canada Conclusion

PMRA has evaluated this incident and concluded that based on the toxicology profile of Par III, the exposure to Par III is not expected to result in seizures or tachycardia. If exposure occurred, it may have worsened a pre-existing skin condition. However, eczema is not considered a serious effect and the link between exposure to Par III and the adverse effect cannot be fully established. 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 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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