

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Notifies WTO of Amendments to Pesticide Registration System

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

On March 20, 2019, Japan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of draft amendments to Japan's pesticide registration system via [G/SPS/N/JPN/624](#). The public comment period for the draft will close on May 19, 2019. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA's enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send your comments by May 5, 2019.

Keyword: JA9036, Pesticide, Registration

General Information:

On March 20, 2019, Japan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of draft amendments to the Japan's pesticide registration system via [G/SPS/N/JPN/624](#). The proposals are related to the previously announced revision of the Agricultural Chemicals Control Act ([G/SPS/N/JPN/593](#) on August 1, 2018) and focus on the following three aspects of the pesticide evaluation system.

- Risk assessment for pesticide operators
- Ecological risk assessment
- Risk assessment for honeybees

The public comment period for the draft will close on May 19, 2019. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA's enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send your comments by May 5, 2019.

(The following is taken from Japan's notification)

Summary of the Revision of the Pesticide Registration System

The Agricultural Chemicals Control Act (Act No.82 of 1948) sets out the process of the pesticide registration system in Japan, such as:

- Only registered pesticides under the Act can be produced, sold and used.
- Evaluation on efficacy, phytotoxicity and effect on humans and the environment are conducted when pesticides are registered.

In relation to the revision of the Agricultural Chemicals Control Act (Act No.53 of 2018) to be effective in 1 April 2020 as announced in G/SPS/N/JPN/593, evaluation system on pesticides will be changed as follows;

- Risk assessment for pesticide operators

If risk assessment shows that the level of daily exposure for pesticide operator throughout a spraying season or incurred a single day is higher than the relevant toxicological reference value, provided that the pesticide is properly used according to the proposed label, the pesticide shall not be registered. The toxicological reference values, namely Acceptable Operator Exposure Level (AOEL) for longer term exposure and Acute Acceptable Operator Exposure Level (AAOEL) for acute exposure, for each pesticide will be established by risk assessment.

- Ecological risk assessment

For the environmental evaluation, the evaluation on aquatic vascular plants and birds, in addition to current test species (fish, algae and crustaceans), will be conducted.

- Risk assessment for honeybees

If risk assessment shows that a colony of honeybees is likely to be seriously damaged due to the exposure to the pesticide, provided that the pesticide is properly used according to the proposed label, the pesticide shall not be registered. Scientific data on toxicity of the pesticide to an individual bee as well as the effect of pesticide on a whole colony will be taken into account in the assessment.