

Registration for Sales of Pesticides with Department of Pesticide Regulations

Richard Bireley, Associate Environmental Research Scientist, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95812, rbireley@cdpr.ca.gov

Before a company can sell a pesticide in California, the product must first be registered by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). As part of the registration process, the company must submit certain supporting data to DPR. Scientists in a variety of disciplines review these data to determine the accuracy of the data, the results of the studies, the potential impacts to humans and the environment, and whether the pesticide (herbicide) works according to the label claims. A significant portion of these required data represent the pesticide's potential impact on fish, wildlife and the natural environment.

The submitted data include acute, subacute, and chronic studies on the impacts of the active ingredient on various species of freshwater and estuarine fish and invertebrates, birds, mammals, sediment dwelling aquatic invertebrates and honeybees. The species tested are intended to represent other similar species. For example, the results of the bluegill sunfish toxicity study are extrapolated to represent the effects of the pesticide on all warm water fish species. In addition, scientists review environmental fate data to determine what the pesticide does in the environment. These data tell us how long a pesticide lasts in the environment under a variety of conditions, what the metabolites are, how long the metabolites last in the environment, the solubility of the pesticide in water, and whether the pesticide will move in soil.

The results of all the data reviews are then used to build a picture of what the pesticide will do in the environment when used according to label directions. This picture is the basis for the recommendation of whether the pesticide should be registered as submitted by the registrant.