



What's making news

The APVMA announced its review of the active constituents carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl, registrations of all products containing carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl, and the approvals of all associated product labels, in APVMA Gazette 4, 3 April 2007.

Carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl are members of the benzimidazole group of fungicides. They are broad-spectrum systemic fungicides effective against a wide range of fungal diseases.

Carbendazim products are used for the control of mould, spot, mildew, scorch, rot and blight in a variety of crops including cereals, fruit (pome, stone, citrus, currants, strawberries, bananas, pineapples, mangoes, avocados), vines, hops, vegetables, ornamentals, cotton, pasture and turf. It is also used as a timber preservative. Thiophanate-methyl is not registered in Australia for use on food producing species, only for the control of soil-borne diseases of ornamental plants.

The APVMA has invited interested parties to make comments or submissions on the recently released Review Scope Document. This doc can be found at: <http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/carbendazim.shtml>
The due date for submissions is 30 June 2007.

Have your say...

On the NTR

The NTR is being updated during May. Please contact the *ChemCert* office if you have any suggestions. Thank you to all who have provided feedback so far.

On the drought

ChemCert (NSW) is interested in obtaining feedback on how the drought is affecting your training business. Are there lower numbers attending your courses? Are you getting fewer enquiries about training? Please let us know what's happening – it may help us to quantify the impact that drought is having on our business.

Droplets

NTR Users Group

ChemCert (NSW) is part of a newly formed group aimed at promoting uptake of the National Training Resource. The group was formed at a meeting held in Canberra during March. The 'NTR Users Group' will oversee development and uptake of the NTR, and will also be investigating options to promote the NTR into specific industry sectors via development of alliances. Contact the *ChemCert* office if you would like more information.

Statistics

WorkCover Penalties

For those who attended the Professional Development Workshop at Dubbo, you may remember a question that WorkCover was unable to immediately answer in regard to

penalties for non-compliance. Ian Johnston has followed up on this question, and we now have a response from WorkCover that the penalty is \$82,500 or two years imprisonment. This should be useful information to pass on to your training participants in order to motivate them to comply with WorkCover regulations!

Diary Dates

June Professional Development Announcement

Courtesy of Bill Gordon Consulting and Spray Safe & Save, another Professional Development activity for trainers is being run during 2007. The request for this additional workshop was initiated at Dubbo, as trainers were very interested in learning more about the practical aspects of spray application and nozzle selection. An in-depth technical workshop on this very subject will be offered at Orange on 27/28 June. There will be a small cost involved for the workshop. Final details are still to be confirmed, so keep an eye on the *ChemCert* website for further announcements.

New Notification Laws are now being enforced

Part 4B of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 contained new laws about notification of pesticide use. The Department of Environment and Conservation has recently issued a reminder that these new laws are now being enforced. From February 2007 it is compulsory for some pesticide users to give notice that they are planning to use pesticides.

Notification is based on the principle that people have a basic right to know when pesticides are used. Notifying people about pesticide use means that they can make informed decisions about their contact with pesticides. The aim of notification is to let people choose to reduce their exposure to pesticide use if they wish. Three key groups will need to give notice of pesticide use:

1. Public authorities, including State government departments, local councils and county councils. They will need to develop notification plans that describe how they will provide the public with notice about their pesticide use in outdoor public places such as parks and ovals, and in public places near sensitive sites such as schools and hospitals.
2. People who organise a professional pesticide treatment in the common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes, including property and strata managers and managing agents. They will need to give residents prior notice of pesticide use in these areas.
3. Pest management technicians who apply pesticides in the common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes.

They will need to give residents notice just before and while they are using pesticides in these areas.

More information on these enforceable notification requirements can be found at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides