



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 13.6.2006  
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Proposal for a

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**

**amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC to include azinphos-methyl as active substance**

(presented by the Commission)

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The attached draft proposal for a Council Directive concerns the inclusion under strict conditions of azinphos-metyl as active substance in the positive list (Annex I) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Council Directive 91/414/EEC creates a harmonised framework for the authorisation and placing on the market of plant protection products. Active substances to be used as plant protection products are assessed and authorised at Community level and are listed in Annex I to the Directive. Individual plant protection products containing active substances are assessed and authorised by Member States under harmonised rules.

The data submitted by industry have been initially evaluated by a rapporteur Member State, in this case Germany, and afterwards, on the basis of their draft assessment report, by the Commission and all the Member States within the framework of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

In view of the hazardous profile of the substance, the conditions of inclusion provide restrictions to those crops that have effectively been considered during the Community evaluation and for which acceptable use may be expected provided highly prescriptive risk mitigation measures are applied.

The draft Directive was submitted on 3 March to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

4 Member States (50 votes) voted in favour,  
18 Member States (223 votes) voted against and  
3 Member States (48 votes) abstained

The Committee delivered no opinion. Consequently, pursuant to Article 19 of Directive 91/414/EEC and in accordance with Article 5 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC, the Commission is required to submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken, the Council having three months in which to act by a qualified majority.

The draft Directive is not subject to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament (Article 8 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC).

Proposal for a

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**

**amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC to include azinphos-methyl as active substance**

**(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 6(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92 of 11 December 1992 laying down the detailed rules for the implementation of the first stage of the programme of work referred to in Article 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market<sup>2</sup>, establishes a list of active substances to be assessed, with a view to their possible inclusion in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC. That list includes azinphos-methyl.
- (2) For azinphos-methyl the effects on human health and the environment have been assessed in accordance with the provisions laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92 for a range of uses proposed by the notifier. By Commission Regulation (EC) No 933/94 of 27 April 1994 laying down the active substances of plant protection products and designating the Rapporteur Member State for the implementation of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92<sup>3</sup>, Germany was designated as Rapporteur Member State. Germany submitted the relevant assessment report and recommendations to the Commission on 11 October 1996 in accordance with Article 7(1)(c) of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92.
- (3) This assessment report has been reviewed by the Member States and the Commission within the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.
- (4) The review of azinphos-methyl revealed a number of open questions which were addressed by the Scientific Panel on Plant Health, Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The Scientific Panel was asked to indicate the time for non-target arthropods populations living in the

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 2003/119/EC (OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 41).

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 366, 15.12.1992, p. 10. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2266/2000 (OJ L 259, 13.10.2000, p. 10).

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 107, 28.4.1994, p. 8. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2230/95 (OJ L 225, 22.9.1995, p. 1).

treated fields to recover to an ecologically sustainable state after specific conditions of application of the substance. Moreover, the Scientific Panel was asked to comment on the adequacy of the risk assessment carried out for birds by the Rapporteur Member State. In its opinion on the first question the PPR Panel concluded that from available data that given a realistic combination of unfavourable conditions, the densities of arthropod populations would still be reduced at the end of the season of treatment and possibly at the start of the next growing season. Recovery would be facilitated by an unsprayed zone but further information would be required to estimate the time to recovery more precisely. On the second question, the PPR Panel concluded that a more refined risk assessment was required. The PPR Panel identified some options for refining the risk assessment<sup>4</sup>.

- (5) It has appeared from the various examinations made that plant protection products containing azinphos-methyl may be expected to satisfy the requirements laid down in Article 5(1)(a) and (b) of Directive 91/414/EEC, with regard to the uses which were examined and detailed in the Commission review report, provided that adequate risk mitigation measures are applied. As azinphos-methyl is a hazardous substance, its use should not be unrestricted. In particular, there are concerns about its intrinsic toxic effects. Although there is scientific consensus on the hazards posed by azinphos-methyl, there may be different views on the risks. This is a question of risk management rather than science which depends on the level of risk which is acceptable for a given society. In order to achieve the high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment chosen in the Community, risk mitigation measures should be imposed.
- (6) Articles 5(4) and 6(1) of Directive 91/414/EEC provide that inclusion of a substance in Annex I may be subject to restrictions and conditions. In this case, restrictions on the inclusion period and on the authorised crops are measures deemed necessary. The restriction of the inclusion period means that Member States will give priority to reviewing plant protection products already on the market containing azinphos-methyl. In order to avoid discrepancies in the high level of protection sought, the inclusion in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC should be limited to the uses of azinphos-methyl that have been actually assessed within the Community evaluation and for which the proposed uses were considered to comply with the conditions of Directive 91/414/EEC. This means that other uses, which were not or only partially covered by this assessment, must first be subject to a complete assessment, before their inclusion in Annex I of Directive 91/414/EEC can be considered. Finally, due to the hazardous nature of azinphos-methyl, it is necessary to provide for a minimum harmonisation at Community level of certain risk mitigation measures that are to be applied by Member States when granting authorisations.
- (7) The risks mitigation measures in this Directive are considered sufficient to limit the risks resulting from the use of the substance to an acceptable level.
- (8) Since it appears possible to identify adequate risk mitigation measures, to be applied within well-described situations and under strict conditions, it would be

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<sup>4</sup> Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Plant Health, Plant Protection Products and their Residues on a request from the Commission related to the evaluation of azinphos-methyl in the context of Council Directive 91/414/EEC (*The EFSA Journal* (2003), 5, 1-20) Adopted on 3 November 2003.

disproportionate to refuse the inclusion of this active substance in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC.

- (9) Without prejudice to the conclusion that plant protection products containing azinphos-methyl may be expected to satisfy the requirements laid down in Article 5(1)(a) and (b) of Directive 91/414/EEC, it is appropriate to obtain further information on certain specific points. Article 6(1) of Directive 91/414/EC provides that inclusion of a substance in Annex I may be subject to conditions. Therefore it is appropriate to require that azinphos-methyl should be subjected to further testing for confirmation of the risk assessment for some non-target organisms and that such studies should be presented by the notifiers. In addition, Member States should require authorisation holders to provide information on the use of azinphos-methyl including any information on incidences on operator health.
- (10) As with all substances included in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC, the status of azinphos-methyl could be reviewed under Article 5(5) of that Directive in the light of any new data becoming available.
- (11) The experience gained from previous inclusions in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC of active substances assessed in the framework of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92 has shown that difficulties can arise in interpreting the duties of holders of existing authorisations in relation to access to data. In order to avoid further difficulties it therefore appears necessary to clarify the duties of the Member States, especially the duty to verify that the holder of an authorisation demonstrates access to a dossier satisfying the requirements of Annex II to that Directive. However, this clarification does not impose any new obligations on Member States or holders of authorisations compared to the directives which have been adopted until now amending Annex I.
- (12) A reasonable period should be allowed to elapse before an active substance is included in Annex I in order to permit Member States and the interested parties to prepare themselves to meet the new requirements which will result from the inclusion.
- (13) Without prejudice to the obligations defined by Directive 91/414/EEC as a consequence of including an active substance in Annex I, Member States should be allowed a period of 6 months after inclusion to review existing authorisations of plant protection products containing azinphos-methyl to ensure that the requirements laid down by Directive 91/414/EEC, in particular in its Article 13 and the relevant conditions set out in Annex I, are satisfied. Member States should vary, replace or withdraw, as appropriate, existing authorisations. in accordance with the provisions of Directive 91/414/EEC. By derogation from the above deadline, a longer period should be provided for the submission and assessment of the complete Annex III dossier of each plant protection product for each intended use in accordance with the uniform principles laid down in Directive 91/414/EEC. Given the hazardous properties of azinphos-methyl, the period for Member States to verify whether the plant protection products, which contain azinphos-methyl as the only active substance or in combination with other authorised active substances, comply with the provisions of Annex VI should not exceed three years.
- (14) It is therefore appropriate to amend Directive 91/414/EEC accordingly.

- (15) The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health has not delivered an opinion within the time-limit laid down by its Chairman.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

#### *Article 1*

Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC is amended as set out in the Annex to this Directive.

#### *Article 2*

Member States shall adopt and publish by 30 June 2007 at the latest the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions and a correlation table between those provisions and this Directive.

They shall apply those provisions from 1 July 2007.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

#### *Article 3*

1. Member States shall in accordance with Directive 91/414/EEC, where necessary, amend or withdraw existing authorisations for plant protection products containing azinphos-methyl as an active substance by 30 June 2007. By that date they shall in particular verify that the conditions in Annex I to that Directive relating to azinphos-methyl are met, with the exception of those identified in part B of the entry concerning that active substance, and that the holder of the authorisation has, or has access to, a dossier satisfying the requirements of Annex II to that Directive in accordance with the conditions of Article 13.
2. By derogation from paragraph 1, for each authorised plant protection product containing azinphos-methyl, Member States shall re-evaluate the product in accordance with the uniform principles provided for in Annex VI to Directive 91/414/EEC, on the basis of a dossier satisfying the requirements of Annex III to that Directive and taking into account part B of the entry in Annex I to that Directive concerning azinphos-methyl. On the basis of that evaluation, they shall determine whether the product satisfies the conditions set out in Article 4(1)(b), (c), (d) and (e) of Directive 91/414/EEC.

Following that determination Member States shall for products containing azinphos-methyl, where necessary, amend or withdraw the authorisation by 31 December 2009.

#### *Article 4*

This Directive shall enter into force on 1 January 2007.

*Article 5*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council  
The President*

**ANNEX**

**The following entries shall be added at the end of the table in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC:**

"No	Common Name, Identification Numbers	IUPAC Name	Purity <sup>5</sup>	Entry into force	Expiration of inclusion	Specific provisions
XX	Azinphos-methyl CAS N° 86-50-0 CIPAC N° 37	S-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxobenzod[1,2,3]triazin-3-yl-methyl)-O,O-dimethyl-phosphorodithioate	≥900 g/kg	1 January 2007	31 December 2013	<p>PART A</p> <p>Only use as insecticide on potato may be authorised.</p> <p>The following conditions of use must be respected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– at rates not exceeding 0,12 kg active substance per hectare per application</li> <li>– Maximum 2 applications per season</li> </ul> <p>The following uses must not be authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– air application;</li> <li>– knapsack and all handheld applications, neither by amateur nor by professional users;</li> <li>– home gardening.</li> </ul> <p>Member States shall ensure that all appropriate risk mitigation measures are applied. Particular attention must be paid to the protection of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– birds and mammals. Conditions of authorisation shall include risk mitigation measures, such as a judicious timing of the application and the selection of those formulations which, as a result of their physical presentation or the presence of agents that ensure an adequate avoidance, minimise the exposure of the concerned species;</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Further details on identity and specification of active substance are provided in the review report.



"No	Common Name, Identification Numbers	IUPAC Name	Purity <sup>5</sup>	Entry into force	Expiration of inclusion	Specific provisions
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1440 308 2060 496">– aquatic organisms and non target arthropods. An appropriate distance must be kept between treated areas and surface water bodies as well as margins of the crop. This distance may depend on the application or not of drift reducing techniques;</li> <li data-bbox="1440 496 2060 842">– operators, who must wear suitable protective clothing, in particular gloves, coveralls, rubber boots and respiratory protective devices during mixing-loading and gloves, coveralls, rubber boots and face protection or safety glasses during application and cleaning of equipment. The above measures must be applied, unless the exposure to the substance is adequately precluded by the design and construction of the equipment itself or by the mounting of specific protective components on such equipment.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="1440 858 1536 882"><b>PART B</b></p> <p data-bbox="1440 898 2060 1018">For the implementation of the uniform principles of Annex VI, the conclusions of the review report on azinphos-methyl, and in particular Appendices I and II thereof, shall be taken into account.</p> <p data-bbox="1440 1034 2060 1241">Member States must ensure that the authorisation holders report at the latest on 31 December of each year on any reported effect on operator health. Member States may require that elements, such as sales data and a survey of use patterns, are provided so that a realistic picture of the use conditions and the possible toxicological impact of azinphos-methyl can be obtained.</p>

"No	Common Name, Identification Numbers	IUPAC Name	Purity <sup>5</sup>	Entry into force	Expiration of inclusion	Specific provisions
						<p>Member States shall request the submission of further studies to confirm the risk assessment for birds, mammals, aquatic organisms and non target arthropods. They shall ensure that the notifiers at whose request azinphos-methyl has been included in this Annex provide such studies to the Commission within 2 years from the entry into force of this Directive.</p>

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