

PSEP Pesticide Education Fact Sheet: **Pesticide Registration**

What is pesticide registration?

Pesticide registration is the scientific, legal, and administrative process of assessing:

- The ingredients in a pesticide;
- Where, how, and when a pesticide is used; and
- How the pesticide is stored and disposed of.

The registration process considers whether a pesticide's use poses no unreasonable adverse effects to humans or the environment.

What agencies register pesticides?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) registers pesticides that are for use and distribution in the United States. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) registers pesticides that are for sale and use in New York State.

When is a pesticide registered?

An applicant must register a pesticide with the USEPA before it can be sold or distributed anywhere in the United States. A pesticide must also be registered with the NYSDEC before it can be distributed, sold, and/or used in New York State.

Do all pesticides require registration?

No. Minimum-risk pesticides (also called 25(b) pesticides) do not require registration with the USEPA. The USEPA has determined that pesticides meeting federal minimum-risk requirements pose little to no risk to human health or the environment and don't require registration. Minimum-risk pesticides do need to follow ingredient and label language requirements found in federal regulations. The NYSDEC does not currently require minimum-risk pesticides to be registered in New York State.

What is involved in the registration process?

For federal registration, applicants provide the USEPA with information on all chemicals in the pesticide, data on human health and environmental risks, and labeling (which include safety precautions and use directions) for the pesticide. The USEPA then:

- Reviews human health risk data (including children and immune-suppressed individuals) for aggregate risks through food, water, and residential uses; cumulative risks from different pesticides having the same effects; and occupational risks to those applying the product.
- Reviews environmental risk data for potential ground water contamination and endangered and threatened species risks along with the potential for endocrine-disruption effects.
- Assesses all scientific data on the pesticide looking for potential effects on humans and the environment. These scientific assessments undergo peer review by experts.
- Makes a risk management/regulatory decision based on the risk assessments and peer reviews. Identified risks are reviewed and any mitigation measures are identified and proposed to the applicant. Mitigation measures may include label changes, restricting where the pesticide can be used, or limiting use to trained individuals. If needed, food and feed maximum residue levels are established. If no changes are needed or if mitigation measures are acceptable to the applicant, a registration is issued.

For NYS registration, the applicant provides the NYSDEC the same data presented to the USEPA, including the EPA-approved label. NYSDEC pesticide registration staff, other NYSDEC divisions/bureaus (such as the Division of Fish and Wildlife), and the NYS Department of Health review the materials for ecological and human health concerns. If any unacceptable risks are noted, the NYSDEC works with the applicant to mitigate these risks. If mitigation is acceptable to both the NYSDEC and the applicant, the pesticide is registered for use in NY.

Always read and follow the label when applying a pesticide. The label is the law.