

Dear Sir, Madam,

The Ctgb has, in anticipation of decision-making on applications for assessment and reassessment of glyphosate-containing products, taken two principle decisions that serve as the basis for the reassessment of all renewal applications and assessment of new applications for glyphosate-containing products.

In this letter we inform you about these decisions because you are an applicant with a pending application for a glyphosate-based product. Depending on the requested GAP, these decisions will affect your application to a greater or lesser degree. As usual, you will be informed of the progress of your own application via the relevant project manager. If you still have questions after reading this letter, you can of course always contact them.

The Board's decisions concern the procedure that will be followed during the assessment/reassessment with regard to (1) exceeding the standard for glyphosate in surface water that is intended for the preparation of drinking water and (2) pre-harvest applications of glyphosate.

Glyphosate in surface water intended for the preparation of drinking water

Part of our current assessment/reassessment is the testing of the intended uses against the drinking water standard¹. Monitoring data, collected in series over several years, has shown that the quality of the surface water in the catchment areas of the Rhine and Drentsche Aa meets the drinking water standard. However, at monitoring locations near surface water intake points for drinking water abstraction in the catchment area of the Meuse, glyphosate concentrations exceeding the drinking water standard have been measured. The standard is already exceeded where the Meuse enters the Netherlands, but use in the Netherlands also contributes to the exceedances measured further downstream. The degree of exceedances decreases downstream: in recent years, peak concentrations show a decreasing trend, as a result of which the 90-percentile values are approaching the drinking water standard. However, at present the test concentration remains above the drinking water standard. The Ctgb will tackle this shared Dutch/Belgian problem in two ways: it will take both measures in the Netherlands and will consult the Belgian authorities on planned and implemented measures in Belgium.

The Ctgb analyses the continuous exceedances of the drinking water standard measured near several surface water intake points based on data submitted by applicants, as well as publicly available information, other monitoring data and data on the effects of measures that were already implemented to limit these exceedances. These latter measures also include the prohibition, as of 1 November 2017, of the professional use of plant protection products outside agriculture and horticulture². The analysis has shown that in the Netherlands the use on closed and semi-open pavements makes the largest contribution to the observed exceedances.

¹ In accordance with Section 2.3.2. of the Evaluation Manual, Chapter 6 Fate and behaviour; version 2.4., March 2019

² As of 1 November 2017, the professional use of plant protection products outside agriculture is prohibited. There are several exceptions. As of March 31, 2016, professional users were prohibited from using plant protection products on paved surfaces outside agriculture and horticulture. (Article 27b, paragraph 1 Regulation on plant protection products and biocidal products).

The Ctgb cannot authorize a use “if the concentration of the active substance or of relevant metabolites, breakdown or reaction products to be expected after use of the plant protection product under the proposed conditions of use in surface water exceeds, where the surface water in or from the area of envisaged use is intended for the abstraction of drinking water, concentrations above which compliance with drinking water quality established in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (10) is compromised”. This is stated in article 2.5.1.3. of Commission regulation (EU) No 546/2011 d.d. of 10 June 2011, “the Uniform principles” connected to implementation of Regulation (EU) 1107/2009.

The Ctgb therefore will set a region-specific restrictive measure for the catchment area of the Meuse. By denial of the authorization for the applied uses on closed and semi-open pavements in the catchment area of the Meuse, it is expected that the Dutch contribution to the exceedance of drinking water standards is reduced, leading to a further decrease of those exceedances. For emission to surface water, no difference can be made between professional and non-professional use nor between agricultural and non-agricultural use. Therefore none of the uses on closed and semi-open pavements within the catchment area of the Meuse can be authorized, neither for professional nor for non-professional use, neither for agricultural nor for non-agricultural use. As these uses will not be authorized, it automatically means that glyphosate-containing products cannot be used on closed and semi-open pavements in the Meuse catchment area for the exceptions defined in the Dutch law (*Regeling gewasbeschermingsmiddelen en biociden* (RgB) article 8.1 – 8.3).

Apart from this, the Ctgb will contact the Belgian authorities in order to align measures to decrease the exceedances of drinking water standards in the Meuse on both sides of the border. Additionally, the Ctgb also invites the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (*Ministerie van IenW*) to contact the Belgian government to jointly tackle this cross-border problem and come up with targeted solutions.

Pre-harvest applications of glyphosate

Pursuant to EU Implementing Regulation 2017/2324, extending the approval of the active substance glyphosate, only herbicide applications of glyphosate are permitted.

Following advice from the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, the Ctgb has concluded that a number of full-field applications are used just before harvest as to promote a uniform ripening of the crop and therefore not as a herbicide application. For the evaluations that the Ctgb is currently working on, these are full-field applications just before harvest in the following crops:

- Cereals (wheat, barley, rye, oats, triticale and spelt, winter wheat, winter barley, summer wheat, summer barley);
- Peas (dry) and beans;
- Pulses;
- Linseed, oilseed rape and mustard.

Such applications are contrary to the EU Implementing Regulation, and the Board therefore deems this type of application no longer permissible. The consideration here is that with good agricultural practice it is no longer necessary to control weeds with a full-field application shortly before harvest. Local application (maximum 10% of the plot) shortly before harvest can be justified as local weed control, and from that point of view there are no objections to an authorisation, provided that the assessment or reassessment shows that such use is safe for humans, animals and the environment.

Met opmerkingen [IBE1]: In mijn beleving is dit toch net anders dan in de NL versie. Daar zeggen we versnelde EN uniforme afrijping

When assessing your application, the Ctgb will determine whether such full-field pre-harvest uses in the above mentioned crops have been applied for. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority will be consulted if the intended full-field applications regard other crops than the above mentioned ones. If the requested uses intend a promotion of a uniform ripening of the crop the Board will apply the above decision and deny the application.

Met opmerkingen [IBE2]: Is dit volledig in lijn met de NL versie?

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Dr. Ingrid Becks-Vermeer
Secretary/Director