

DECCO, as a member of the EU DPA TASK FORCE, in response to the many questions and doubts regarding the status of the active ingredient Diphenylamine (DPA), informs that:

- The decision of the Commission for non-inclusion (Decision 2009/859/EC) took place on November 30th, 2009. As a result, the necessary studies were prepared according to the accelerated process set out in Regulation (EC) No 33/2008. Currently, this documentation is awaiting assessment by EFSA. In this new documentation, the absence of nitrosoamine-derivatives compounds has been evidenced.
- An Exceptional Authorization for the products based on Diphenylamine (Emergency use) has been obtained for 2011 for the pome fruit season in Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Ireland and United Kingdom. The farmers and growers associations from the different countries are extremely grateful to the DPA TASK FORCE for its work in pushing for this anti-Scald's usage, being well aware that currently there is no effective alternative to control this problem. (If necessary, European farmers could apply for "Emergency uses" for up to three seasons).
- With regard to the MRLs, in September EFSA published a report in which only the data provided in previous dossiers had been considered without considering the new data (documentation that is part of the re-submission dossier). This report suggests a 0.05 ppm reduction in MRLs for apples and pears instead of that already established, 5 ppm for apples and 10 ppm for pears. We are currently working on this so all the documentation submitted by EFSA is considered, which would support the acceptance of the current MRLs.

At the end of 2011, it is expected that EFSA will publish a report evaluating the ingredient. A 6 month consultation period with the Member States will then begin. Once this period finishes, the Commission will vote regarding the active ingredient. Parallel to this process, a vote will take place regarding a possible reduction of the MRLs, the result of which is unlikely to enter into force before the beginning of 2013.

On behalf of DECCO and the EU DPA TASK FORCE we will continue to make every effort both to obtain the re-inclusion of Diphenylamine (DPA) in Annex I and the continued use of the current MRLs.

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