



Australian Government
**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**



TRADE ADVICE NOTICE

on Flutriafol in the Product Sinker Fungicide

APVMA Product Number 67732

DECEMBER 2012

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PREFACE

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is an independent statutory authority with responsibility for assessing and approving agricultural and veterinary chemical products prior to their sale and use in Australia.

In undertaking this task, the APVMA works in close cooperation with advisory agencies, including the Department of Health and Ageing, Office of Chemical Safety and Environmental Health (OCSEH), Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), and State Departments of Primary Industry.

The APVMA has a policy of encouraging openness and transparency in its activities and of seeking stakeholder involvement in decision making. Part of that process is the publication of Trade Advice Notices for all proposed extensions of use for existing products where there may be trade implications.

The information and technical data required by the APVMA to assess the safety of new chemical products and the methods of assessment must be undertaken according to accepted scientific principles. Details are outlined in the APVMA's publication *Ag MORAG: Manual of Requirements and Guidelines*.

About this document

This is a Trade Advice Notice.

It indicates that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is considering an application to vary the use of an existing registered agricultural or veterinary chemical. It provides a summary of the APVMA's residue and trade assessment.

Comment is sought from industry groups and stakeholders on the information contained within this document.

Making a submission

The APVMA invites any person to submit a relevant written submission as to whether the application for registration of Sinker Fungicide containing 500 g/L flutriafol be granted. Submissions should relate only to matters that the APVMA is required by legislation to take into account in deciding whether to grant the application. These grounds relate to the **trade implications** of the extended use of the product. Submissions should state the grounds on which they are based. Comments received outside these grounds cannot be considered by the APVMA.

Submissions must be received by the APVMA by close of business on **31 January 2013** and be directed to the contact listed below. All submissions to the APVMA will be acknowledged in writing via email or by post.

Relevant comments will be taken into account by the APVMA in deciding whether to grant the application and in determining appropriate conditions of registration and product labelling.

When making a submission please include:

- Contact name
- Company or Group name (if relevant)
- Postal Address
- Email Address (if available)
- The date you made the submission.

All personal and **confidential commercial information (CCI)**¹ material contained in submissions will be treated confidentially.

Written submissions on the APVMA's proposal to grant the application for registration that relate to the **grounds for registration** should be addressed in writing to:

Contact Officer
Pesticides Program
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
PO Box 6182
Symonston ACT 2609

Phone: 02 6210 4748
Fax: 02 6210 4776
Email: pesticides@apvma.gov.au

Further information

Further information can be obtained via the contact details provided above.

¹ A full definition of "confidential commercial information" is contained in the Agvet Code.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has before it an application from Crop Care Australasia Pty Ltd for use of the product, *Sinker Fungicide* containing 500 g/L flutriafol, for the control of sugarcane smut and pineapple disease on sugarcane. The proposed use requires the establishment of a permanent MRL for flutriafol on sugarcane.

Detectable residues are not expected to occur in animal commodities as a result of the proposed use and the risk to trade in animal commodities is not addressed further in this document.

2 TRADE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 Commodities exported

Sugarcane is considered to be a major export commodity²

2.2 Destination and value of exports

Sugarcane is the second largest export crop in Australia after wheat with total annual revenue of around \$2 billion. During the 2010-11 season, Australia exported approximately 2.4 million tonnes of raw sugar and 0.25 million tonnes of refined sugar. Major export markets for Australian sugar are presented below.

Table 1: Major destinations for Australian sugar exports³

COMMODITY	MAJOR DESTINATIONS
Raw sugar	Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, United States, China.

2.3 Proposed Australian use-pattern

The proposed Australian use pattern for *Sinker Fungicide* (500 g/L flutriafol) is summarised below.

Table 2: Sinker Fungicide (500 g/L flutriafol)

Crop	Disease	Rate	Critical Comments
Sugarcane	Sugarcane smut (<i>Sporosorium scitamineum</i>)	50 mL/100 L water (25 g ai/100 L water)	Dip Application For the prevention of primary infection of sugarcane smut of sugarcane planting material apply as a 5-10 minute ambient dip treatment prior to planting. The use of a non-ionic wetting agent at recommended rates will enhance coverage of the fungicide on the planting material. Cane may or may not have previously been hot water treated for disinfection from other diseases. Dip application should be limited to sett production only.
	Sugarcane smut (<i>Sporosorium scitamineum</i>), Pineapple disease (<i>Ceratocystis paradoxa</i>)	500 mL/ha* (250 g ai/ha) Or 7.5 mL/100 m row (3.75 g ai/100 m row)	Spray Application For the prevention of primary infection of sugarcane smut and pineapple disease in sugarcane, apply as a spray onto setts in the planting chute. The spray should be applied with a minimum of 4 nozzles arranged in the planting chute to give thorough coverage of all surfaces of the setts before they are planted in the furrow. Apply in a minimum water volume of 350 L/ha and calibrate the planter prior to application and planting to give the correct rate of fungicide (500 mL/ha or 7.5 mL/100 m row). The use of a non-ionic wetting agent at recommended rates will enhance coverage of the fungicide on the planting material.* The rate is based on single row cane with a 1.5 m row spacing. If row spacing varies from 1.5 m then apply at the use rate according to mL/100 m of row.

² http://www.apvma.gov.au/morag_ag/vol_3/part_05b_trade.php

³ http://www.daff.gov.au/abares/publications_remote_content/publication_series/australian_commodity_statistics

WITHHOLDING PERIODS

Harvest: NOT REQUIRED WHEN USED AS DIRECTED

Grazing: DO NOT GRAZE OR CUT FOR STOCK FOOD FOR 32 WEEKS AFTER TREATMENT

2.4 Results from residues trials presented to the APVMA

The proposed use of Sinker Fungicide involves the foliar application of flutriafol at planting at a rate of 3.75 g ai/100 m row or as a 5-10 minute dip solution of 25 g flutriafol/100 L water. The applicant has proposed a harvest withholding period of not required when used as directed.

In support of the proposed use the applicant has submitted six Australian GLP residue trials on sugarcane, conducted across the main sugarcane growing regions of Queensland during 2010/2011. In these trials one application of flutriafol was made at planting at rates of 3.75 or 7.5 g ai/100 m row (1 or 2x the proposed rate). At crop maturity, residues of flutriafol were not detected above the LOQ (0.01 mg/kg) in samples of billets or tops at either rate (n=6 for each rate). An MRL of *0.01 mg/kg is recommended for sugarcane in conjunction with a withholding period of *not required when used as directed*.

Specific residue trials have not been conducted for the dip treatment application method. *Crop Care* have indicated that a dip concentration of 25 g ai/100 L would equate to an application rate of about 210 g ai/ha, less than the 1x spray application rate. The dipping application is limited to setts used in "seed" cane production and it is considered unlikely that cane grown from setts treated in this manner will be used for crushing. The APVMA has accepted *Crop Care*'s argument and justification for not providing additional data for the dip treatment.

Residues in tops at crop maturity at 1x and 2x were <0.01 mg/kg. A grazing withholding period of 32 weeks is recommended in conjunction with an MRL of *0.01 mg/kg for sugarcane forage and fodder.

2.5 Codex alimentarius commission and overseas MRLs

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) is responsible for establishing Codex Maximum Residue Limits (CXLs) for pesticides. Codex CXLs are primarily intended to facilitate international trade, and accommodate differences in Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) employed by various countries. Some countries may accept Codex CXLs when importing foods. Codex CXLs have not yet been established for flutriafol. The following relevant international MRLs /tolerances have been established.

Table 3: Comparison of flutriafol MRLs (mg/kg) for sugarcane. Residue definitions for flutriafol are flutriafol.

FLUTRIAFOL		
Australia	proposed	*0.01
EU ⁴		*0.05

2.6 Current and proposed Australian MRLs for flutriafol

Current relevant MRLs and the residue definition for flutriafol are presented below. A full listing of MRLs can be found at www.apvma.gov.au/residues/standard.php. No changes to current MRLs or the residue definition have been proposed.

Table 4: Relevant current entries and changes to Table 1 of the APVMA MRL Standard

COMPOUND	FOOD	CURRENT MRL (mg/kg)	PROPOSED MRL (mg/kg)
FLUTRIAFOL			
GS 0659	Sugar cane	T0.3	*0.01

Table 5: Relevant current entries in Table 3 of the APVMA MRL Standard

COMPOUND	RESIDUE
FLUTRIAFOL	Flutriafol

Table 6: Relevant current entries and proposed changes to Table 4 of the APVMA MRL Standard

COMPOUND	FOOD	CURRENT MRL (mg/kg)	PROPOSED MRL (mg/kg)
FLUTRIAFOL			
AM 0659	Sugar cane fodder	T2	*0.01
AV 0659	Sugar cane forage	T2	*0.01

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public/index.cfm?event=substance.resultat&s=1

2.7 Potential risk to trade

Export of treated produce containing finite (measurable) residues of flutriafol may pose a risk to Australian trade in situations where (i) no residue tolerance (import tolerance) is established in the importing country or (ii) where residues in Australian produce are likely to exceed a residue tolerance (import tolerance) established in the importing country.

Key Australian sugar export markets have not established flutriafol MRLs for sugar. However, as detectable residues are not expected when the product is used as directed the potential risk to trade is considered to be low.

3 CONCLUSIONS

It is proposed to establish a permanent MRL for flutriafol on sugarcane. Comment is sought on the potential for flutriafol residues to prejudice Australian trade when *Sinker Fungicide* is used on sugar cane.

A more detailed technical assessment report on the evaluation of the trade implications of this chemical can be obtained by contacting the APVMA at (02) 6210 4748. Alternatively, the reports can be viewed at the APVMA Library, which is located at:

18 Wormald Street

Symonston ACT, 2609

Office hours: (EST) Monday to Friday