

Use of pesticides on golf courses: Important information from Health Canada

This document has been prepared by Health Canada to increase awareness of legislative requirements under the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) within the golf courses industry.



In Canada, pest control products, commonly known as pesticides, are regulated at municipal, provincial/territorial and federal levels. The federal [Pest Control Products Act](#) (PCPA) primary objective is to prevent unacceptable risks to the human health and the environment from the use of pesticides.

Regulated parties can be subject to a compliance verification by Health Canada inspectors. When a violation is identified as a result of an inspection, sample analysis or verification of records, enforcement actions are taken in accordance with Health Canada's [Compliance and enforcement policy for pesticides](#). Health Canada has a number of enforcement tools at its disposal, including warning letters, compliance orders and administrative monetary penalties up to \$10,000 per violation.

Most relevant legislative requirements

- ☐ **Unregistered pest control products - PCPA 6 (1):** *No person shall manufacture, possess, handle, store, transport, import, distribute or use a pest control product that is not registered under this Act, except as otherwise authorized under subsection 21(5) or 41(1), section 48 or 51, any of the sections 53 to 59 or the regulations.*

Example of non-compliance: Using, possessing and storing pesticide products not registered by Health Canada.

- ☐ **Misuse of pest control products - PCPA 6 (5)**

No person shall handle, store, transport, use or dispose of a pest control product in a way that is inconsistent with (a) the regulations; or (b) if the product is registered, the directions on the label recorded in the Register, subject to the regulations.

Example of non-compliance: Using a pesticide contrary to the label directions, including:

- Product applied in a location which is not specified on the label.
 - ✓ **Did you know that?** Products used on golf courses must generally be registered for use on a golf course or for application on turf.
- Product applied at a higher rate than the maximum rate allowed.
- Number of applications superior to the maximum number of applications allowed in a given period of time.
 - ✓ **Did you know that?** Fungicide products often have restrictions on the total number of applications allowed.
- Method or equipment used during application which is not approved on the label.
- Storage or disposal of products in a way that is inconsistent with the label directions.

- ☐ **Activities that endanger health, etc. - PCPA 6 (8):** *No person shall manufacture, possess, handle, store, transport, distribute, use or dispose of a pest control product in a way that endangers human health or safety or the environment.*

Recent regulatory changes

Pesticides are re-evaluated periodically by Health Canada to ensure that they continue to meet health and environmental requirements. Re-evaluation decisions may result in the cancellation of products or product uses. Health Canada may also request changes to a product's label, including adding, removing or changing mitigation measures, use sites and application methods. The following decisions, published since 2018, are currently applicable to the use of pesticides commonly used on golf courses.

Cancelled Products

- [Chlorothalonil](#): Products available in dry flowable or water dispersible granules form
- All [chlorpyrifos](#) products
- [Imidacloprid](#)
 - ✓ MERIT SOLUPAK (Reg. no 25932)
 - ✓ MERIT GRANULAR (Reg. no 25933)
 - ✓ QUALI-PRO IMIDACLOPRID 75 WSP (Reg. no 29130)
 - ✓ QUALI-PRO IMIDACLOPRID 0,5 (Reg. no 29185)

Label changes to

- [Chlorothalonil](#) products
- [Imidacloprid](#) products
- [Iprodione](#) products
- [Fosetyl-Aluminium](#) products
- [Thiophanate-methyl](#) products
- [Trinexapac-ethyl](#) products

For information on changes to label of products containing those active ingredients, consult the available factsheets on Health Canada's [Pesticides compliance and enforcement resources](#) webpage.

Read and follow the label

All pesticides registered in Canada has a Health Canada-approved label with a registration number:

- **Reg. No. 00000 P.C.P. Act**
- **Registration No. 00000 *Pest Control Products Act***

Using a pesticide contrary to label directions is a violation of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA). To find the most up-to-date label of a product, use Health Canada's online [label search tool](#). Labels of pesticides used on golf courses contain information on mitigation measures to which users must adhere, including requirements on:

Personal protective equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is any clothing or equipment that is worn to minimize pesticide exposure and protect your health. PPE can be as simple as chemical-resistant gloves and footwear worn with a long-sleeved shirt and long pants; or may involve using a respirator and protective suit. When using pesticides, it is important to always use the appropriate PPE specified on the product's label. To learn on how to protect yourself and anyone exposed to pesticides, consult the [Personal Protective Equipment](#) and [Pesticide Gloves](#) factsheets on Health Canada's Pesticides compliance and enforcement: Resources webpage.

Drift mitigation

Spray drifts are airborne movements of droplets or particles of pesticides outside of a target area. It can occur during or shortly after pesticide spraying. Minimizing drift is essential to protect human health and the environment. Mitigation measures may be specified on pesticide labels to help reduce drift. To learn on how to mitigate pesticide drifts, consult the [Management of pesticides spray drift: applicator's summary guide](#) factsheet on Health Canada's Pesticides compliance and enforcement resources webpage.

Re-entry interval

Time specified on the label of a pest control product that must be respected by anyone before entering an area treated with pesticides. Re-entry intervals may be expressed quantitatively (in hours or days) or qualitatively (e.g., "until residues are dry").

Reporting incidents involving pesticides

A pesticide incident is a negative effect (adverse reaction) to humans (ex. skin rash, headache or nausea), animals (pets or livestock) or the environment (plants or wildlife) that can result from being exposed to a pesticide. To report a pesticide incident, consult Health Canada's [Report a Pesticide Incident](#) webpage.

For more information

Regulatory framework

- **Pest Control Products Act (PCPA):** <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/p-9.01/>
- **Health Canada compliance and enforcement policy for pesticides:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/policies-guidelines/compliance-enforcement-policy-pesticides.html>

The above documents are the official Health Canada documents. In the event of any discrepancy with the contents of this document, they shall prevail.

Pesticide compliance

- **Pesticides compliance and enforcement resources:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-products/pesticides-compliance-enforcement/resources.html>
- **Search product label:** <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>

Pesticide Incident reporting

- **Report a Pesticide Incident:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public/protecting-your-health-environment/report-pesticide-incident.html>

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for the enforcement of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA). For more information on this program, visit: <https://canada.ca/pesticide-compliance> or contact pcp-pcp@hc-sc.gc.ca.

This document is also available in French.