

Notes on Meeting held on 14th September 2015 of the EFNA Pesticide Working Group, Birmingham

Participants: Jamie Dewhurst (J& A Growers), Bolette Palle Neve (Crop Protection Liaison Manager of the UK Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board), Bent Leonhard (nursery advisor Denmark and EFNA Assistant Secretary) and Andy Gordon (technical secretary EFNA),

Aim of the Meeting: to provide EFNA members with an understanding of the current EU rules and procedures for approvals of pesticides for the use in forest nursery cultures and to identify the possibilities for coordinating the required documentation for approval in the individual member states.

Agenda:

1. A common understanding of the request of EFNA, and defining what product is to be delivered by the working group.
2. Listing of the content of the Regulation 1107/2009. An update on the organisations and databases that can be used in work on approvals in the Member States (MS). How approvals are taken care of in the different MS.
3. Identifying the hurdles in approvals for different zones and MS.
4. Ordinary approvals, approvals of alternative products and basic substances
5. An united industry cooperation with the suppliers of plant health products, including statistics on areas of cultures with specific need for selected plant health products. (Marked evaluation)
6. Mutual information on trials of efficacy of new active substances or products.
7. Future cooperation on trials of the needed documentation of approvals in the MS
8. How can EFNA members get the best out of Eumuda and the future EU secretariat for approvals of pesticides for minor cultures?

Summary of Conclusions. In the event the discussions crossed over so many subjects that it has not been possible to minute the discussions under these headings. Bolette (a native Dane) is very familiar with EU procedures and was a great help in the discussions. It was felt that many EFNA members did not understand the current system both at the EU and their own national level. Product approval is not always due to EU legislation as Member States, often responding to Lobby groups are able to put their own interpretation on the EU legislation (e.g. Basamid in the Netherlands). Therefore it was agreed that one month before our next meeting in Vienna the group would prepare a document for discussion at that meeting. It will include a brief summary of the European Regulation 1107/2009, the procedures followed in two member countries (Denmark and UK) for obtaining approval and the results of possible co-operation with a voluntary group set up by Bruno Gobin of BCG in Kruishoutem Belgium. This group is known as the Commodity Expert Group and looks at all aspects of plant protection in all areas of horticulture. A new EU Minor Use fund has recently been established with its base in Paris with the aim of keeping a database on minor use up-to-date across the EU. It was stressed that on numerous occasions products are not available in particular member states as manufacturers may choose for commercial reasons not to support it. In addition there are occasions where an individual state's authority may refuse approval for a product due to a range of reasons such as resistance management, an example is the Luna family of fungicides in the UK although other MS authorities may not have the same concerns. Finally it was felt that EFNA's name which includes the word Forest could act against our best interests as we tend to be lumped together with Forestry rather than horticulture when Product use is considered.

Andy Gordon 6th October 2015