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[Rules and Regulations]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0658; FRL-10474-01-OCSPP]

Penthiopyrad; Pesticide Tolerances

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

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SUMMARY: This regulation establishes a tolerance for residues of

penthiopyrad in or on banana. Interregional Research Project Number 4,

IR-4, requested this tolerance under the Federal Food, Drug, and

Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

DATES: This regulation is effective February 17, 2023. Objections and

requests for hearings must be received on or before April 18, 2023, and

must be filed in accordance with the instructions provided in 40 CFR

part 178 (see also Unit I.C. of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION).

ADDRESSES: The docket for this action, identified by docket

identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0658, is available at

[https://www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/) or at the Office of Pesticide Programs

Regulatory Public Docket (OPP Docket) in the Environmental Protection

Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), West William Jefferson Clinton Bldg.,

Rm. 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001. The

Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through

Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public

Reading Room and the OPP Docket is (202) 566-1744.

For the latest status information on EPA/DC services, docket

access, visit <https://www.epa.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Rosenblatt, Acting Director,

Registration Division (7505T), Office of Pesticide Programs,

Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington,

DC 20460-0001; main telephone number: (202) 506-2875; email address:

[RDFRNotices@epa.gov](mailto:RDFRNotices@epa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this action apply to me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are an

agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer.

The following list of North American Industrial Classification System

(NAICS) codes is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a

guide to help readers determine whether this document applies to them.

Potentially affected entities may include:

Crop production (NAICS code 111).

Animal production (NAICS code 112).

Food manufacturing (NAICS code 311).

Pesticide manufacturing (NAICS code 32532).

B. How can I get electronic access to other related information?

You may access a frequently updated electronic version of EPA's

tolerance regulations at 40 CFR part 180 through the Office of the

Federal Register's e-CFR site at [https://www.ecfr.gov//title-40](https://www.ecfr.gov/title-40).

C. How can I file an objection or hearing request?

Under FFDCA section 408(g), 21 U.S.C. 346a, any person may file an

objection to any aspect of this regulation and may also request a

hearing on those objections. You must file your objection or request a

hearing on this regulation in accordance with the instructions provided

in 40 CFR part 178. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, you must identify

docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0658 in the subject line on the first

page of your submission. All objections and requests for a hearing must

be in writing and must be received by the Hearing Clerk on or before

April 18, 2023. Addresses for mail and hand delivery of objections and

hearing requests are provided in 40 CFR 178.25(b).

In addition to filing an objection or hearing request with the

Hearing Clerk as described in 40 CFR part 178, please submit a copy of

the filing (excluding any Confidential Business Information (CBI)) for

inclusion in the public docket. Information not marked confidential

pursuant to 40 CFR part 2 may be disclosed publicly by EPA without

prior notice. Submit the non-CBI copy of your objection or hearing

request, identified by docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0658, by one of

the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: [https://www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/).

Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit

electronically any information you consider to be CBI or other

information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

Mail: OPP Docket, Environmental Protection Agency Docket

Center (EPA/DC), (28221T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC

20460-0001.

Hand Delivery: To make special arrangements for hand

delivery or delivery of boxed information, please follow the

instructions at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Additional instructions on commenting or visiting the docket, along

with more information about dockets generally, is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

II. Summary of Petitioned-For Tolerance

In the Federal Register of November 17, 2022 (87 FR 68959) (FRL-

9410-07-OCSPP), EPA issued a document pursuant to FFDCA section

408(d)(3), 21 U.S.C. 346a(d)(3), announcing the filing of a pesticide

petition (PP 1E8951) by IR-4, NC State University, 1730 Varsity Drive,

Venture IV, Suite 210, Raleigh, NC 27606. The petition requested that

40 CFR 180.658 be amended to establish a tolerance for residues of the

fungicide penthiopyrad, N-[2-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-3-thienyl]-1-methyl-3-

(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide, in or on banana at 2 parts

per million (ppm). That document referenced a summary of the petition

prepared by IR-4, the petitioner, which is available in the docket,

[https://www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/). There were no comments received in

response to the Notice of Filing.

Based upon review of the data supporting the petition and in

accordance with its authority under FFDCA section 408(d)(4)(A)(i), EPA

is establishing the tolerance for residues of penthiopyrad in or on

banana at a different level than requested by the petitioner. The

reason for this change is explained in Unit IV.C.

III. Aggregate Risk Assessment and Determination of Safety

Section 408(b)(2)(A)(i) of FFDCA allows EPA to establish a

tolerance (the legal limit for a pesticide chemical residue in or on a

food) only if EPA determines that the tolerance is ``safe.'' Section

408(b)(2)(A)(ii) of FFDCA defines ``safe'' to mean that ``there is a

reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure

to the pesticide chemical residue, including all anticipated dietary

exposures and all other exposures for which there is reliable

information.'' This includes exposure through drinking water and in

residential settings but does not include occupational exposure.

Section 408(b)(2)(C) of FFDCA requires EPA to give special

consideration to exposure of infants and children to the pesticide

chemical residue in establishing a tolerance and to ``ensure that there

is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and

children from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue. . .

.''

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Consistent with FFDCA section 408(b)(2)(D), and the factors

specified in FFDCA section 408(b)(2)(D), EPA has reviewed the available

scientific data and other relevant information in support of this

action. EPA has sufficient data to assess the hazards of and to make a

determination on aggregate exposure for penthiopyrad including exposure

resulting from the tolerances established by this action. EPA's

assessment of exposures and risks associated with penthiopyrad follows.

In an effort to streamline its publications in the Federal

Register, EPA is not reprinting sections that repeat what has been

previously published for tolerance rulemaking of the same pesticide

chemical. Where scientific information concerning a particular chemical

remains unchanged, the content of those sections would not vary between

tolerance rulemaking and republishing the same sections is unnecessary.

EPA considers referral back to those sections as sufficient to provide

an explanation of the information EPA considered in making its safety

determination for the new rulemaking.

EPA has previously published a number of tolerance rulemakings for

penthiopyrad, in which EPA concluded, based on the available

information, that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm would

result from aggregate exposure to penthiopyrad and established a

tolerance for residues of that chemical. EPA is incorporating

previously published sections from those rulemakings as described

further in this rulemaking, as they remain unchanged.

Toxicological profile. For a discussion of the Toxicological

Profile of penthiopyrad, see Unit III.A. of the June 6, 2019,

rulemaking (84 FR 26352) (FRL-9994-08).

Toxicological points of departure/Levels of concern. For a summary

of the Toxicological Points of Departure/Levels of Concern for

penthiopyrad used for human risk assessment, see Unit III.B. of the

June 6, 2019, rulemaking.

Exposure assessment. Much of the exposure assessment remains the

same although updates have occurred to accommodate exposures from the

petitioned-for tolerance. These updates are discussed in this section;

for a description of the rest of the EPA approach to and assumptions

for the exposure assessment, please reference Unit III.C. of the June

6, 2019, rulemaking.

EPA's dietary exposure assessments have been updated to include the

additional exposure from the new use of penthiopyrad on banana and were

conducted with Dietary Exposure Evaluation Model software using the

Food Commodity Intake Database (DEEM-FCID) Version 4.02, which uses the

2005-2010 food consumption data from the United States Department of

Agriculture's (USDA's) National Health and Nutrition Examination

Survey, What We Eat in America (NHANES/WWEIA). The assessment used the

same assumptions as the June 6, 2019, final rule concerning tolerance-

level residues, default processing factors for all processed

commodities and 100 percent crop treated.

Drinking water exposure. The drinking water numbers have not

changed since the June 6, 2019, rulemaking.

Non-occupational exposure. There are no new residential (non-

occupational) exposures associated with the new proposed use. The

assessment of exposures to the currently registered uses on residential

sites (e.g., lawns and turf) has not changed since the June 6, 2019,

rulemaking.

Cumulative exposure. Section 408(b)(2)(D)(v) of FFDCA requires

that, when considering whether to establish, modify, or revoke a

tolerance, the Agency consider ``available information'' concerning the

cumulative effects of a particular pesticide's residues and ``other

substances that have a common mechanism of toxicity.'' Unlike other

pesticides for which EPA has followed a cumulative risk approach based

on a common mechanism of toxicity, EPA has not made a common mechanism

of toxicity finding as to penthiopyrad and any other substances and

penthiopyrad does not appear to produce a toxic metabolite produced by

other substances. For the purposes of this action, therefore, EPA has

not assumed that penthiopyrad has a common mechanism of toxicity with

other substances.

Safety factor for infants and children. EPA continues to conclude

that there are reliable data to support the reduction of the Food

Quality Protection Act (FQPA) safety factor from 10X to 1X. See Unit

III.D. of the June 6, 2019, rulemaking for a discussion of the Agency's

rationale for that determination.

Aggregate risks and determination of safety. EPA determines whether

acute and chronic dietary pesticide exposures are safe by comparing

dietary exposure estimates to the acute population adjusted dose (aPAD)

and the chronic population adjusted dose (cPAD). Short-, intermediate-,

and chronic term risks are evaluated by comparing the estimated

aggregate food, water, and residential exposure to the appropriate

points of departure to ensure that an adequate margin of exposure (MOE)

exists. For linear cancer risks, EPA calculates the lifetime

probability of acquiring cancer given the estimated aggregate exposure.

Acute dietary risks are below the Agency's level of concern of 100%

of the aPAD; they are 21% of the aPAD for all infants (less than 1 year

old), the population subgroup with the highest exposure estimate.

Chronic dietary risks are below the Agency's level of concern of 100%

of the cPAD; they are 38% of the cPAD for all infants (less than 1 year

old), the population subgroup with the highest exposure estimate.

The combined short-term food, water, and residential exposures

result in aggregate MOEs of 440 in adults and 220 for children 1 to <2

years old. Because EPA's level of concern for penthiopyrad is an MOE of

100 or below, these MOEs are not of concern. For more details, refer to

unit III.E in the June 6, 2019, rulemaking and unit III.B of the April

7, 2021, rulemaking (86 FR 17917) (FRL-10017-27). As explained in unit

III.E. in the June 6, 2019, rulemaking, EPA has concluded that the

cancer risk is not of concern. Based on the risk assessments and

information described above, EPA concludes there is reasonable

certainty that no harm will result to the general population, or to

infants and children, from aggregate exposure to penthiopyrad residues.

More detailed information can be found at [https://www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/)

in the document titled ``Penthiopyrad. Human Health Risk Assessment for

the Proposed Registrations on Bananas and Greenhouse-Grown Lettuce'' in

docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0658.

IV. Other Considerations

A. Analytical Enforcement Methodology

For a discussion of the available analytical enforcement method,

see Unit IV.A. of the June 6, 2019, rulemaking.

B. International Residue Limits

In making its tolerance decisions, EPA seeks to harmonize U.S.

tolerances with international standards whenever possible, consistent

with U.S. food safety standards and agricultural practices. EPA

considers the international maximum residue limits (MRLs) established

by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), as required by FFDCA

section 408(b)(4).

The Codex has not established an MRL for residues of penthiopyrad

in or on banana.

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C. Revisions to Petitioned-For Tolerances

EPA is establishing the tolerance for residues of penthiopyrad in

or on bananas at 3 ppm instead of the petitioner-proposed 2 ppm. The 2

ppm value is likely the result of the Day 0 residues input into the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) tolerance

calculator. However, in the residue decline trial, the residue on Day 0

(0.98 ppm) increased on Day 1 (1.11 ppm) before declining for the

remainder of the study. As the Day 1 harvest is allowable according to

the proposed application pattern, it is EPA's practice to use that

value instead of the Day 0 value. This input results in a tolerance of

3 ppm according to the OECD tolerance calculation procedures.

V. Conclusion

Therefore, a tolerance is established for residues of penthiopyrad,

including its metabolites and degradates, in or on banana at 3 ppm.

VI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

This action establishes a tolerance under FFDCA section 408(d) in

response to a petition submitted to the Agency. The Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted these types of actions from

review under Executive Order 12866, entitled ``Regulatory Planning and

Review'' (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993). Because this action has been

exempted from review under Executive Order 12866, this action is not

subject to Executive Order 13211, entitled ``Actions Concerning

Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or

Use'' (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001), or to Executive Order 13045,

entitled ``Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and

Safety Risks'' (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997). This action does not

contain any information collections subject to OMB approval under the

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), nor does it

require any special considerations under Executive Order 12898,

entitled ``Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority

Populations and Low-Income Populations'' (59 FR 7629, February 16,

1994).

Since tolerances and exemptions that are established on the basis

of a petition under FFDCA section 408(d), such as the tolerance in this

final rule, do not require the issuance of a proposed rule, the

requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 et

seq.), do not apply.

This action directly regulates growers, food processors, food

handlers, and food retailers, not States or Tribes, nor does this

action alter the relationships or distribution of power and

responsibilities established by Congress in the preemption provisions

of FFDCA section 408(n)(4). As such, the Agency has determined that

this action will not have a substantial direct effect on States or

Tribal Governments, on the relationship between the National Government

and the States or Tribal Governments, or on the distribution of power

and responsibilities among the various levels of government or between

the Federal Government and Indian Tribes. Thus, the Agency has

determined that Executive Order 13132, entitled ``Federalism'' (64 FR

43255, August 10, 1999), and Executive Order 13175, entitled

``Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments'' (65 FR

67249, November 9, 2000), do not apply to this action. In addition,

this action does not impose any enforceable duty or contain any

unfunded mandate as described under Title II of the Unfunded Mandates

Reform Act (UMRA) (2 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

This action does not involve any technical standards that would

require Agency consideration of voluntary consensus standards pursuant

to section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement

Act (NTTAA) (15 U.S.C. 272 note).

VII. Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 et seq.),

EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required

information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and

the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of

the rule in the Federal Register. This action is not a ``major rule''

as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure,

Agricultural commodities, Pesticides, and pests, Reporting and

recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 14, 2023.

Daniel Rosenblatt,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, for the reasons stated in the preamble, EPA amends 40

CFR chapter I as follows:

PART 180--TOLERANCES AND EXEMPTIONS FOR PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUES

IN FOOD

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1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321(q), 346a and 371.

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2. In Sec. 180.658, amend table 1 to paragraph (a)(1) by adding, in

alphabetical order, an entry for ``Banana'' to read as follows:

Sec. 180.658 Penthiopyrad; tolerances for residues.

(a) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

Table 1 to Paragraph (a)(1)

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Parts per

Commodity million

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\* \* \* \* \*

Banana..................................................... 3

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[FR Doc. 2023-03399 Filed 2-16-23; 8:45 am]

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