



## Regulatory Integrity FAQs

### Q. How are pesticides tested to help ensure they are safe?

A. Manufacturers and independent researchers conduct hundreds of studies in the U.S. and around the world.<sup>1</sup> These studies provide data related to impacts on unintended species and the environment, as well as risks to human health, just to name a few.<sup>2</sup> Studies also include “prolonged and repeated exposure” assessments in order to determine risks of developing certain diseases over time.<sup>3</sup> Studies must be conducted consistent with international scientific standards, such as Good Laboratory Practices, helping ensure that even studies conducted by manufacturers can be relied-upon.<sup>4</sup>

### Q. How are pesticides regulated?

A. Multiple state and federal regulatory agencies work together to oversee the development and use of pesticides in the U.S. These agencies determine, based on hundreds of scientific studies for each product, which pesticides can be used, on which crops, in which amounts, and how they can be applied.<sup>5</sup> Through licensing and inspections, they help ensure that farmers apply the smallest amount of pesticides possible to control weeds, disease, and insects that could damage their crops.<sup>6</sup> Working together, these agencies protect the environment and the food supply.

### Q. Is the regulatory process transparent?

A. Throughout the pesticide review and approval process, all scientific data are available for public scrutiny. In fact, EPA receives “hundreds or even thousands”<sup>7</sup> of comments from the public and independent experts for each product. EPA reviews all of these comments and incorporates relevant information into its decision-making process.

### Q. What measures are taken to help ensure that pesticides are applied accurately?

A. When a pesticide is approved for use, regulators protect consumers, farm workers, those living near farms, and the environment by establishing restrictions on how

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<sup>1</sup> The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended in 1996, 7 USC 136, available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2017-title7/USCODE-2017-title7-chap6-subchapII-sec136/context>

<sup>2</sup> EPA, Data Requirements for Pesticide Registration, available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/data-requirements-pesticide-registration>

<sup>3</sup> EPA, Data Requirements for Pesticide Registration, available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/data-requirements-pesticide-registration>

<sup>4</sup> EPA, Good Laboratory Practices Standards Compliance Monitoring Program, available at <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/good-laboratory-practices-standards-compliance-monitoring-program>

<sup>5</sup> The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended in 1996, 7 USC 136, available at [7 U.S.C. 136 - Definitions - Content Details - USCODE-2017-title7-chap6-subchapII-sec136 \(govinfo.gov\)](https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2017-title7/USCODE-2017-title7-chap6-subchapII-sec136/context)

<sup>6</sup> EPA, How to Get Certified as a Pesticide Applicator, available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/how-get-certified-pesticide-applicator>

<sup>7</sup> EPA, Food and Pesticides, available at <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/food-and-pesticides>

### Representing the Crop Protection Industry

pesticides can be used.<sup>8</sup> Certified pesticide applicators must be trained, apply for, and receive a government license before they can use pesticides on agricultural crops.<sup>9</sup> Government agencies inspect whether and how farmers are using pesticides, including when and where they use them and in what quantities, to help ensure compliance with use restrictions. Use restrictions can cover the quantities used, the frequency of application, the time of day a pesticide can be used, and where it can be used relative to wells and property lines to prevent run-off.<sup>10</sup>

**Q. Do pesticide manufacturers oppose/resist regulation?**

A. Pesticide manufacturers recognize the important role of pesticide regulation and a strong EPA. They support EPA and other regulatory agencies to help ensure these agencies have the resources they need to effectively manage a complex and rigorous regulatory framework. For example, in June 2019, several pesticide industry groups, among others, sent joint letters to Congressional leaders opposing proposed cuts to EPA's budget.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended in 1996, 7 USC 136, 136a, Registration of Pesticides, available at [7 U.S.C. 136 - Definitions - Content Details - USCODE-2017-title7-chap6-subchapII-sec136 \(govinfo.gov\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7--agriculture/subtitle-B--pesticides-and-plant-products/chapter-I--general-requirements-for-registration/section-726.136-Definitions-Content-Details-USCODE-2017-title7-chap6-subchapII-sec136)

<sup>9</sup> EPA, How to Get Certified as a Pesticide Applicator, available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/how-get-certified-pesticide-applicator>

<sup>10</sup> Wayland, S., and Fenner-Crisp, P., Reducing Pesticide Risks: A Half Century of Progress, EPA Alumni Association, 2016, available at <https://www.epaalumni.org/hcp/pesticides.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Letters to Hon. Betty McCollum, Hon. David Joyce, Hon. Lisa Murkowski, Hon. Tom Udall, June 6, 2019, available at <https://www.thehcpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/OPP-Funding-Letter-6-6-19.pdf>