

UPDATE ON PROFUME® GAS FUMIGANT (SULFURYL FLUORIDE)

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The presentation will review the status of food tolerances for sulfuryl fluoride in the United States, and a brief review of regulatory activities globally for ProFume® gas fumigant.

On January 19, 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opened a docket (EPA HQOPP-2005-0174) for the public to comment on the proposed withdrawal of food tolerances for fluoride and sulfuryl fluoride (constituents of Dow AgroSciences' ProFume® gas fumigant) over time. The responses from industry, researchers, and government and nongovernmental organizations in support of food tolerances for fluoride and sulfuryl fluoride were predominantly opposed to the proposed action. This response resulted in the EPA reopening the docket, from May 2 to July 30, 2012, for a second public comment period to request more detailed legal and technical information on the proposed withdrawal of food tolerances for ProFume.

Many stakeholders, including 17 trade associations, 32 food processors, 19 fumigators, 4 key University researchers, numerous cocoa bean interests and grain industry representatives throughout the world, as well as regulators, distributors, and registrants have written or contributed more than 165 letters to the two public dockets. These stakeholders clearly documented why food tolerances are needed for ProFume. Summaries of these submissions have been reviewed at past MBAO meetings.

In addition, the Sulfuryl Fluoride Agricultural Coalition (SFAC) was instrumental in working with legislators to preserve the food tolerances for ProFume. Members of SFAC include: American Agri-Women, American Farm Bureau Federation, Almond Hullers & Processors Association, American Peanut Shellers Association, American Seed Trade Association, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, California Walnut Commission, California Women for Agriculture, Cardinal Professional Products, Cocoa Merchants' Association of America, CropLife America, DFA of California, Dow AgroSciences, National Confectioners Association's Chocolate Council, National Cotton Council, National Pasta Association, National Pest Management Association, North American Millers' Association, Sunsweet Growers, Inc., Trical, USA Rice Federation, Western Agricultural Association, and Western Growers.

As a result of three years of engagement by SFAC and other stakeholders, on February 7, 2014, the United States Congress passed The 2014 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill includes the following language which ultimately preserves the food tolerances for ProFume.

SEC .10015. REGULATION OF SULFURYL FLUORIDE: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall exclude non pesticidal sources of fluoride from any aggregate exposure assessment required under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.346a) when assessing tolerances associated with residues from the pesticide.

EPA is currently reviewing the Congressional language. Dow AgroSciences is working on revised labeling for ProFume for EPA to review. The labeling revisions clarify product usage patterns and incorporate applications on current Special Local Needs (SLN) labels. Submission of this labeling was previously delayed due to the EPA proposed actions on food tolerances for sulfuryl fluoride.

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ProFume is a federally Restricted Use Pesticide.
Always read and follow label directions.