EPA staff response to Arysta LifeScience feedback

Background

At the request of the DMC for this application, Arysta LifeScience provided its response to the assessment of the field trial study report (letter from Dr Timothy Wilson, dated 22 February 2015). This document provides the EPA staff responses to the issues raised in the correspondence from Arysta LifeScience.

Use of spray oil for application on lemon crops

We agree that our concerns previously raised regarding the non-use of spray oil during the study should be disregarded if it is not relevant for the application of acephate (Orthene) onto lemons crops. Although the product label indicates that the substance should be applied with spray oil for the treatment of scale pests, submitters speaking at the public hearing indicated categorically that spray oil was not used on lemon crops, where the pest insect of concern is citrus flower moth.

Maximum application rate

Arysta contends that 1200 g ai / ha (1600 g “Orthene 75” / ha) would give the same effects as 1552 g ai/ha (1600 g “Othene 97”). This has not been tested so we are unable to verify whether this premise is correct. Additionally, it is worth noting that Orthene 75 is not available on the NZ market.

Arysta state that a rate of 1600 g Orthene 75 is a “reasonable application rate when compared to the in-life use of acephate on lemons”. The staff do not consider that this is an appropriate rate to base a conclusion. Assessment is usually undertaken using worst case scenarios because the application rate will vary depending on tree size. Our approach is in line with regulatory practice: for example, the US EPA usually requires to test the “normal” use rate and 1.5 times this dose. Hence, this is why the staff were satisfied with the initial proposed trial rates .

Observed mortality

The staff disagree with the conclusion of Arysta LifeScience that 50% of bee mortality and consequently a 2-day NCP is acceptable . The NCP has to be based on a level of effects that is similar to the control, when this level is considered acceptable according to criteria of set in the relevant guideline.

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