

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 16 August 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-42226-W4X6P5

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request received on 2 August 2021 for information about Glyphosate (N phosphonomethylglycine) with the CAS number CAS:1071-83-6.

You have asked six specific questions, which we have listed below and responded to individually.

1. *Is this the glyphosate which NZ EPA has registered for use in glyphosate based herbicides in NZ?*

This is just one of the eight forms of glyphosate currently approved for use in New Zealand.

2. *Were the data supplied to NZ EPA for the original certification of glyphosate the same as that supplied to the US EPA for their original Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED), the so-called glyphosate technical?*

The EPA does not 'certify' hazardous substances, but we do approve them for use in New Zealand.

The first approval of glyphosate in New Zealand well predates the existence of the EPA. It is likely to have come under the jurisdiction of either the Agricultural Chemicals Board, or the Pesticides Board, which replaced it. The EPA does not have the data that was supplied for the first approval of glyphosate. Therefore we have to refuse to answer this question under s 18(e) of the OIA, on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

3. *Is the CAS:1017-83-6 used to certify all the different glyphosates used in the certification of all the various glyphosate based herbicides (GBHs) used in NZ?*

No, individual glyphosate based herbicides are assessed based on the specific form of the glyphosate active ingredient. As mentioned previously, there are eight such forms.

4. *Were the safety data supplied for that original certification used in any or all of the subsequent certifications of glyphosate and GBHs?*

Without understanding what data was originally used, we are unable to answer this question. However, if you would like to see what information or data has been relied upon when classifying glyphosate, you can find this on the Chemical Classification and Information Database (<https://www.epa.govt.nz/database-search/chemical-classification-and-information-database-ccid/>) by searching using the CAS number.

5. *Please supply the CAS numbers of those different glyphosates used in the various GBHs presented in applications to EPA for certification.*

Active	CAS number
Glyphosate (N phosphonomethylglycine)	1071-83-6
Glyphosate, ammonium salt	114370-14-8
Glyphosate dimethylamine salt	34494-04-7
Glyphosate isopropylamine	38641-94-0
Glyphosate-monoammonium	40465-66-5
Glyphosate potassium	70901-12-1
Glyphosate trimesium	81591-81-3
Glyphosate monoethanolamine	40465-76-7

6. *Does NZ EPA receive any safety data, other than that in the original certification and who supplies those data?*

Each application needs to have its own evidence. This is supplied by the applicant. However, the EPA can obtain additional information and evidence, such as studies that are published or cited by environmental regulators in other countries. The level of evidence required varies depending on the application type.

If you are interested in learning more about what is required for new applications, and application types, please see the resource on our website about 'Approval to import or manufacture a new substance for release':

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/making-an-application/release-approvals/>

Our data requirements for hazardous substance applications may also be of interest:

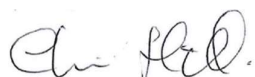
<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/Guidance/1b0a54c980/Hazardous-Substances-Data-Requirements.docx>

We trust this answers your questions. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hill
General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms