

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 17 February 2022

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-43340-Y4K3B8

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request transferred to the Environmental Protection Authority from the Ministry for the Environment on 20 January 2022 for the following information:

- “1) Which neonicotinoids and related systemic pest controls are still used in New Zealand and in which areas are they used?
- 2) Who does the studies for NZ authorisation of pesticides? That is, are producer studies accepted or are such studies done by independent laboratories?
- 3) What studies does the Ministry of the Environment do or procure on long-term effects of neurotoxins such as neonicotinoids and related substances on the environment and on people?”

We are treating questions 1 and 3 as a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and question 2 as a general enquiry.

Neonicotinoids

There are currently five neonicotinoid active ingredients approved for use in New Zealand. They are clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, thiacloprid and acetamiprid. Grounds for the reassessment of the five ingredients was established in December 2019 after a call for information about their use was issued. The ingredients are not currently under active reassessment. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) does not track where neonicotinoids are used.

A list of approved substances that contain these active ingredients, together with the ACVM registered product names (where applicable), is included within the Neonicotinoids grounds for reassessment application form (see Table 2 on pages 10 – 13):

[APP203949 Final Grounds for reassessment Application Form.pdf \(epa.govt.nz\)](#)

Two summary documents have been compiled from the responses to our call for information about the five ingredients. This includes information on how products containing neonicotinoid ingredients are used and in what settings they are used.

[Neonicotinoids in NZ Summary \(epa.govt.nz\)](https://www.epa.govt.nz/Neonicotinoids-in-NZ-Summary)

[Neonicotinoids in NZ Summary 2.pdf \(epa.govt.nz\)](https://www.epa.govt.nz/Neonicotinoids-in-NZ-Summary-2.pdf)

Studies provided during application process

Studies on various fields such as toxicology, ecotoxicology and the fate and behaviour of substances in the environment are required for the evaluation of pesticides in New Zealand. The studies must follow specific guidelines set out by the OECD and other international bodies.

Those studies are paid for by industry and conducted by laboratories that are certified and audited under 'Good Laboratory Practice' (GLP) standards, GLP is an OECD protocol designed to ensure consistency and integrity in chemical safety tests. The studies are commonly sent to registration agencies across the world as part of pesticide registration activities.

The findings of each study for the substance are presented in a detailed study report, which allows our experts to check the reliability and quality of the results and decide which aspects to use in risk assessments. The integrity of the findings and raw data is guaranteed by the fact that the laboratories carrying out the tests are certified and audited under the GLP system.

Sometimes EPA experts disagree with industry on how the results of these studies should be interpreted for the risk assessment, and we also cross check with conclusions reached by relevant overseas agencies.

Environmental studies

The EPA does not undertake or procure studies on the long-term effects of neurotoxins like neonicotinoids or related substances on the environment or on people.

However, during the application process to approve a hazardous substance or as part of a call for information or reassessment the EPA may be provided with studies on these effects.

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.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chi Hill".

Dr Christopher Hill
General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms