

# Measures on the Management of Pesticide Labels and Manuals

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## Chapter I General

**Article 1** To regulate the management of pesticide labels and manuals and ensure safe use of pesticides, the Measures on the Management of Pesticide Labels and Manuals (the Measures) is hereby developed in accordance with the Regulations on the Management of Pesticides.

**Article 2** The labels shall be printed or pasted on the package surface of the pesticides operated and used within the territory of the People's Republic of China. Labels shall be printed or pasted to the package surface of pesticide products. If the size of packages is so small that it is unable to indicate the contents on the label as stipulated in the Measures, corresponding manuals shall be attached

**Article 3** The term "Labels and Manuals" as mentioned in the Measures refers to all instructions that are written on pesticide packages or attached thereto and describing pesticide contents in the form of characters, drawings and symbols.

**Article 4** Label samples and electronic files of pesticide products shall be submitted by pesticide registration applicants at the time of applying for pesticide registration. For pesticides attached with a manual, the manual sample and its electronic file shall be submitted simultaneously.

**Article 5** The pesticide labels and manuals shall be examined and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. At the time of approving pesticide registration, the Ministry of Agriculture shall publish the content and approval date of the approved labels and manuals.

**Article 6** The contents in the labels and manuals shall be truthful, normalized and accurate, and the characters, symbols and drawings on labels and manuals shall be legible and shall not be illegally revised or supplemented by way of pasting, cutting or alteration, etc.

**Article 7** Normalized Chinese characters as publicized by the state shall be used on the labels and manuals, and Chinese Pinyin or other kinds of language may be used simultaneously. The meanings expressed by any other kind of language shall be consistent with those expressed by Chinese characters.

## Chapter II Contents of Labels

**Article 8** A pesticide label shall indicate the following contents:

- (1) pesticide name, formulation, active ingredients and their content;
- (2) pesticide registration certificate number, product quality standard number and pesticide production license number;
- (3) Pesticide category, color bands, product performances, toxicity and mark;
- (4) scope of use, use methods, dosage, technical requirements and attentions on use;
- (5) first aid measures in case of pesticide poisoning;
- (6) storage and transport methods;
- (7) date of production, product batch number, warranty period, net weight;

- (8) name and contact information of the pesticide registration certificate holder;
- (9) traceable electronic information code;
- (10) drawings;
- (11) other contents required to be labeled by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Article 9** In addition to the contents set forth in Article 8, the following contents on pesticide labels shall also comply with corresponding requirements:

- (1) A TC (TK) product shall be marked with "this product is a raw material used to process pesticide preparations and shall not be used on crops or in other places", without information regarding use techniques and methods, except where direct use is allowed upon registration approval;
- (2) restricted pesticides shall be labeled with the words "Restricted for Use" and indicated with special restrictions and requirements;
- (3) pesticides for edible agricultural products shall be labeled with safety interval period, except under circumstances listed in Article 18(3);
- (4) rodenticide products shall be marked with the specified rodenticide drawing;
- (5) household pesticides for direct use may not contain distinctive color strips;
- (6) the labels for pesticides processed by way of consigning or sub-packaged pesticides shall also contain the pesticide production license number of the consignee, the consignee's name and contact information, and the processing and sub-packaging dates;
- (7) the pesticides exported to China may not be marked with the pesticide production license number but shall be marked with its overseas manufacturing place, as well as the name and contact information of the office or agency established in China.

**Article 10** If a label is too small to contain all the specified contents, it shall at least give a clear indication of the pesticide name, content of active ingredients, dosage form, pesticide registration certificate number, net weight, date of production, warranty period, etc. and be attached with the manual. The manual should cover all specifications required by relevant regulations.

If the use scope to be registered is too extensive to be listed on the label, a partial scope of use may be marked on the label as required, provided that the manual attached is marked with the whole scope of use.

**Article 11** The pesticide name shall be consistent with the pesticide name shown on the pesticide registration certificate.

**Article 12** The contact information includes the residence address, manufacturing location, postal code, telephone number and fax number of the pesticide registration certificate holder, enterprise or entity.

**Article 13** The date of production shall be indicated by the order of year, month and date; four digits shall indicate the year, and two digits shall respectively indicate the date and the month. If the product batch number contains the production date, it may be expressed in consolidation with the production date.

**Article 14** The warranty terms shall be indicated by the product quality assurance term under normal conditions, or by the effective date or the expiry date.

**Article 15** The net weight shall be indicated by national statutory units of measurement. The weight of other special pesticide products may be indicated in any other proper form in light of their performances.

**Article 16** The performances of products shall mainly include the fundamental nature, main functions and characteristics of products. The descriptions about the performances of pesticide products shall be consistent with the scope and methods of use as approved at the time of pesticide registration.

**Article 17** The scope of use mainly covers applicable crops or places and control targets.

The use methods refer to pesticide application forms.

The dosage for use shall be expressed by the preparation amount or dilution rate of such product per mu. The dosage of seed treatment agents shall be expressed by the preparation amount of such products needed for each 100kg of seeds. The dosage of pesticides for special purposes shall be stated as consistent with the approved content in pesticide registration.

**Article 18** Technical requirements on use mainly include application conditions, application stage and times, maximum times of use, impacts on crops of the existing and following rotations and prevention measures and the only crops allowed to be planted in the following rotation or the crops that cannot be planted in the following rotation, intervals, etc.

The restricted pesticides shall be indicated with the information on their labels that a warning sign shall be set up after the application of pesticides and also clear information of an interval period allowing the access of humans and animals.

The maximum times of use in each safety interval period and production cycle of crops shall be indicated based on the actualities of agricultural production and pesticide use. The following pesticide labels may not contain information regarding a safety interval period:

- (1) pesticides used for inedible crops;
- (2) dressing, coating, soaking and other pesticides used for the treatment of seeds;
- (3) pesticides used for non-cultivated lands (except pastures);
- (4) pesticides used as pre-emergence soil treatment agents;
- (5) pesticides used only one time in the seedling stage of crops;
- (6) rodenticides used other than for comprehensive application;
- (7) household pesticides;
- (8) other special circumstances.

**Article 19** The toxicity is divided into five degrees: highly toxic, very toxic, moderately toxic, low toxic and slightly toxic, each of which shall separately be indicated by the logo "☠", the Chinese characters for "highly toxic", the logo "☠" and the characters for "very toxic", the logo "☠" and the characters for "moderately toxic", the logo " " and the characters for "low toxic", and the logo "低毒" and the characters for "slightly toxic". The logo shall be in black and the characters shall be in red.

Where the preparations are processed from the TC of highly toxic or very toxic pesticides, if the toxic degree of highly toxic or very toxic pesticides is different from the highest toxic degree of the TC, the highest toxic degree of the TC as used shall also be indicated in a bracket.

**Article 20** The following items shall be indicated in the “Attention” section:

- (1) if the pesticide is prone to cause harm to crops or cause resistance to pests, the main causes and prevention methods shall be indicated;
- (2) if the pesticide is prone to cause unfavorable impact on humans, animals, surrounding crops or plants, useful organisms (such as bees, birds, silkworms, earthworms, predators, fish, daphnia, and other aquatic organisms) or the environment, such contents shall be explained in detail; the prevention measures and requirements for cleaning the spraying apparatuses shall also be indicated;
- (3) it shall be indicated if it has been known that any pesticide cannot be used in a mixture with any other pesticide;
- (4) if the opening of packages causes the pesticide to spray or cause human harm in any way, the correct opening method shall be indicated;
- (5) the safety protection measures shall be taken at the time of pesticide application;
- (6) the scope or methods of use forbidden by national regulations.

**Article 21** The first aid measures in case of pesticide poisoning shall include poisoning symptoms, as well as the first aid measures and treatments in the case where one has mistakenly eaten or ingested pesticide, the pesticide enters one’s eyes, or the pesticide is sprayed on one’s skin, etc.

Where there is any special antidote, such antidote and the medical suggestions shall be indicated.

The emergency phone number in case of pesticide poisoning shall be indicated.

**Article 22** The storage and transport methods shall include such environmental conditions and requirements as light irradiation, temperature, humidity and ventilation at the time of storage as well as the points for attention at the time of uploading, discharge and transport, and such warnings as “Keep out of reach of children” and “No mixed storage with food, beverage, grain and feed, etc.” shall be indicated.

**Article 23** The pesticide category shall be indicated by corresponding characters and the distinctive color strips.

The pesticide of a different category shall be distinguished with a fadeless distinctive color strip at the bottom of the label, which shall be parallel to the bottom edge of the label.

The herbicide shall be indicated by the Chinese characters for “herbicide” and a green strip; the insecticide (mites, mollusks) shall be indicated by the characters for “insecticide”, “miticide” or “mollusk killer” and a red strip; the fungicide (nematodes) shall be indicated by the characters for “fungicide” or “nematode killer” and a black strip; the plant growth regulator shall be indicated by the characters for “plant growth regulators” and a dark yellow strip; the rodenticide shall be indicated by the characters for “rodenticide” and a blue strip; the insecticide/bactericide shall be indicated by the characters for “insecticide/bactericide” and a red & black strip. The descriptive characters for the category of pesticide shall be embedded on the strip in a different color. Distinctive color bands may be exempted on the pesticides.

**Article 24** The traceable electronic information code shall be represented by a QR code or other forms allowing the scanning and identification of such information as the pesticide name and the name of the pesticide registration certificate holder. The information code shall not contain any words, symbols and drawings inconsistent with the Measures.

The Ministry of Agriculture shall establish the format and generation requirements of the traceable electronic information code.

**Article 25** The drawings include storage drawing, operation drawing, advice drawing and warning drawing. The drawings shall be selected as required by safe use measures of products and arranged in order based on the operation requirements of actual use, provided that they cannot replace necessary explanatory text on the label.

**Article 26** The labels and manuals shall not contain any characters, symbols, drawings, any enterprise's award or honorable titles for the purpose of publicity or advertisement, unless it is otherwise stipulated by the laws, regulations or rules.

### **Chapter III Production, Use and Management**

**Article 27** Each minimum package of pesticides shall be printed or pasted with an independent label and shall not share one label with other pesticides.

**Article 28** The height of Chinese characters indicated on the label shall be no less than 1.8 mm.

**Article 29** The pesticide name shall be indicated in a clear and striking manner; the font, size and color thereof shall be consistent with each other, and shall comply with the following requirements:

- (1) the horizontal label shall be placed at an eye-catching position in the middle of the upper one-third scope of the label; the vertical label shall be placed at an eye-catching position in the middle of the one-third scope on the right side of the label;
- (2) no grass writing, seal character or any other characters that are difficult to identify may be used, and no italics, hollow or shadow forms, etc. may be used to adorn characters;
- (3) the color of the characters shall have a clear contrast with the background color; and
- (4) the characters shall not be written in two or more lines except that they cannot be written on the same line due to the size of packages.

The size of other text content on the label shall not exceed the character size of the pesticide name, except the words "restricted use".

**Article 30** The active ingredients and their content and dosage forms shall be indicated right under the pesticide name in a striking manner (in the case of horizontal label) or just near to the left side of the pesticide name (in the case of vertical label) (the name of dosage form may not be indicated in the case of the household pesticide for direct use), and the height of the characters shall not be less than 1/2 of the pesticide name.

The content of total active ingredients as well as the generic name and content of each active ingredient shall be indicated for mixed preparations. The generic name and content of each active ingredient shall be indicated right under the pesticide name (in the case of horizontal label) or right at the left side of the pesticide name (in the case of horizontal label) in a striking manner; the font, size and color thereof shall be consistent with each other, and the height of characters shall not be less than 1/2 of that of the pesticide name.

**Article 31** No unregistered trademark shall be used in pesticide labels and manuals.

If the registered trademark is used on the label, it shall be marked on the four corners of the label and cover an area of no more than 1/9 of the label area; and the size of each character shall not be larger than that of any single character in the pesticide name.

**Article 32** The toxicity and its mark shall be indicated right under (in the case of horizontal label) or directly to the left side (in the case of horizontal label) of the content and dosage form of active ingredients, and the color of characters shall have a clear contrast with the background color.

Drawings shall be printed in both black and white and generally under the label; furthermore, their size shall be in harmony with the size of labels.

The safety interval and application times shall be indicated in a striking manner with the word size larger than the size of the other words in the technical requirements on use.

**Article 33** The characters for "Restricted for Use" shall be indicated in red at the top right or top left corner on the front of the pesticide label and show a clear contrast with the background color. The size of a single character shall be no less than that of any single character in the pesticide name.

**Article 34** The labels shall not contain any false or misleading content. In case of the following circumstances, the content shall be deemed false and misleading if:

- (1) users are misled to expand the scope of use, increase dosage or change the use methods;
- (2) the characters, symbols and drawings indicate the household pesticide is suitable for children, pregnant women, people with allergies, and special groups;
- (3) product performance is exaggerated and false advertisement are made, other products are disparaged or compared with other products, which is prone to cause misunderstanding or confusion among users;
- (4) the name of any organization or individual or their image is exploited to justify or recommend the product;
- (5) the labels contain any assertion or undertaking that guarantees high yield, increase of yield, eradication or elimination, and absolute words and representations containing the words like quick results;
- (6) the labels contain undertakings of any insurance company and refunds in case of ineffectiveness;
- (7) other false or misleading content is included.

**Article 35** The labels and manuals shall not contain any characters, drawing or symbols indicating the scope and methods of use that are not registered and approved.

**Article 36** Except for the pesticide registration certificate holder, enterprise or institution name and contact information that shall be indicated pursuant to the Measures, the labels shall not contain the name and contact information of any other enterprise or institution.

**Article 37** The product toxicity, precautions, technical requirements and other contents to be indicated in relation to the safety and effectiveness of pesticide products shall not be changed without permission. The license number, production date, enterprise contact information and other product certification and enterprise pertinent information shall be labeled by enterprises themselves which shall also be responsible for the authenticity thereof.

**Article 38** If a pesticide registration certificate holder intends to change any content related to product safety and effectiveness in the labels or manuals, the holder shall apply to the Ministry of Agriculture for re-examination.

The Ministry of Agriculture shall make a decision of approval within three months.

**Article 39** The Ministry of Agriculture may require the holder of the pesticide registration certificate to revise labels and manuals according to the monitoring and evaluation results and other information, and review the information.

In case of any change to the matters specified on the pesticide registration certificate, the Ministry of Agriculture, while making a decision on granting the change of pesticide registration, shall re-examine the pesticide labels.

**Article 40** Three months after the re-examination of labels and manuals, the original labels and manuals shall no longer be used.

**Article 41** In case of any violation of the Measures, relevant provisions in the Regulations on the Management of Pesticides shall apply.

## **Chapter IV Supplementary Provisions**

**Article 42** The Measures shall come into effect as August 1, 2017. The Measures on the Management of Pesticide Labels and Manuals issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on December 8, 2007 shall be repealed at the same time.

If any label or manual does not comply with the Measures, the label and manual specified in the Measures shall apply as from January 1, 2018.