

**Subcommittee on Pesticides Ordinance
(Amendment of Schedule 1) Notice 2014**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 22 April 2014**

1. The Administration was requested to provide -
 - (a) copies of the Codes of Practice for the trade on the correct and effective use of pesticides by the trade; and
 - (b) an update on the progress on the follow-up actions undertaken by the Administration during the deliberations of the Bills Committee on Pesticides (Amendment) Bill 2013 (see **Appendix**), to further promote the safe and proper use of pesticides, in particular, the phasing out of paraquat dichloride and diazinon and removal of these two pesticides from the register, and the work to indicate in the promotional materials the alternative common names of a given pesticide and provide advice to the public to identify various common names of a given pesticide properly.

2. Regarding the Codes of Practice for the trade on the correct and effective use of pesticides, there was a suggestion that to ensure the safe use of pesticides in schools and the aged homes, the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") should provide the Codes of Practice to the Education Bureau ("EDB") and the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") for their onward distribution to the schools and the aged homes so that they can follow the guidelines set out in the Codes of Practice. FHB was requested to follow up this suggestion with EDB and LWB.

Pesticides (Amendment) Bill 2013

List of follow-up actions undertaken by the Administration to further promote the safe and proper use of pesticides

(a) Safety measures

- To discuss with the relevant government departments and other stakeholders in the industry on ways to promote the safe and proper use of pesticides, particularly those that are related to the applications of pesticides, including the use of warning signs, such as the design, size, content of such signage and location to place them.
- To incorporate the enhanced safety measures, including requirements on warning signage, into the respective Codes of Practice for the pest control industry, as well as the training syllabus of the relevant training bodies.
- To make extra efforts in checking the labels of pesticides to ensure that adequate safety information has been included in the labels, and explore with the trade to see if the instructions and cautions on the labels could be highlighted and complemented by suitable pictograms.

(b) Promotion and publicity

- To step up promotional and publicity efforts as well as public education on the safe use of household pesticides, including publishing a wide range of educational leaflets and booklets, in particular, for users in rural residential areas. Appropriate leaflets and promotional materials would also be provided to pesticide licensees for free distribution to their customers.
- To include in the promotional materials the fact that many alternative common names have been used on a given pesticide and provide advice to members of the public to identify the various common names of a given pesticide properly.

- To step up promotional and publicity efforts targeted at schools, including publishing a set of educational leaflet targeting the safe and proper use of pesticides in schools, organising promotional campaign to deliver the messages to the relevant parties, and organising talks to schools and/or their service providers.
- To conduct a round of briefings for the relevant government departments, including the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, before the commencement of the Pesticides (Amendment) Ordinance 2013 and update them on the latest regulatory requirements and related matters. Refreshers' briefing sessions would also be organised on a periodic basis to keep them up-to-date on the regulatory requirements and related matters on the safe and proper use of pesticides.

(c) Registration and use of pesticides

- To formulate a plan with a view to phasing out paraquat dichloride and diazinon, and removing them from the register by 2014.
- To take into account the pesticides which are banned in the European Union in the next round of review conducted by AFCD.
- To introduce the concept of integrated pest management to farmers and the pest control industry through workshops and seminars.
- To keep in view the development of pesticides derived from natural products and to refine the regulation on such pesticides as appropriate.
- To keep in view the need to step up regulation of pesticide applicators as appropriate, having regard to the effectiveness of an array of measures in enhancing the standard of the industry.

(d) Others

- To continue efforts in following up cases with users of pesticides (including schools, pest control agents etc) upon receipt of public complaints and enquiries.

- To insert suitable notes in the licence and permit application forms to remind applicants that the address of any premises or place (whether domestic or not) stated in their applications would be subject to entry without a warrant by authorised officers for the purposes of ascertaining whether the Ordinance has been or is being complied with.
- To consider the feasibility on a study regarding the long-term impact of pesticides on the health of pesticide applicators in collaboration with the industry.

* * * * *

*Source : Appendix IV to the Report of the Bills Committee on Pesticides (Amendment)
Bill 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1508/12-13)*