

Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2015

Twelfth Annual Report



March 1, 2016

Maintenance Fees

Accomplishments

Inert Ingredients

Inert Ingredient Actions under PRIA

FIFRA section 33(k)(2)(F) requires the EPA to report the number of inert ingredients (inerts) pending review by the Agency. Under PRIA 3 all new requests for approval of inert ingredients became subject to registration service fee requirements, and ten new PRIA categories were established specific to inert ingredient approvals. In FY'15, 49 inert ingredient requests were received as covered PRIA 3 applications.

At the end of FY'14 there were 51 inert applications that carried over into FY'15. In FY'15, 56 inert ingredient approval were completed, and at the end of FY'15, there were 44 inert ingredient approval requests pending in various stages of review.

Process Improvement in Inert Ingredient Reviews

By FY 2014, it became evident that significant improvements in the quality of inert clearance submissions under PRIA 3 were needed. Almost all of the inert packages submitted over a two-year period under PRIA 3 were significantly deficient, which caused delays and substantial additional work for the inerts staff. With the full support of the PRIA Stakeholders Coalition, EPA held an inerts workshop in December 2014. More than 80 inert stakeholders were in attendance. The workshop provided (1) an in-depth review of each of the 10 PRIA 3 inert categories and what must be submitted for each, (2) a detailed explanation of the inert ingredient evaluation and approval process for each category, including discussion of critical data needs or appropriate data surrogates (i.e., models, structure/activity relationships, analogues), and (3) a two-year retrospective analysis identifying the most common deficiencies in inert package submissions. As a result of that workshop, the quality and completeness of inert ingredient submissions has improved, allowing the Agency to more efficiently and effectively review the submissions.

Enhancements to the inert ingredient website have been made in FY'15, allowing users to more readily access information on inert ingredients. Also, continual updates have been made to [InertFinder](#), an online database for searching substances used as inert ingredients in pesticide products. InertFinder, which is searchable by chemical name or CAS Registry Number, provides information on the approval status of substances used as inert ingredients for use in food use and nonfood use pesticides, including fragrances in pesticide products, and is available on the agency's website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/inertfinder>. Similarly, updates have been made to “The List of Trade Names of Inert Ingredients” <http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=inertfinder:mixtures> website to further enhance public access to information related to the EPA approval status of trade name inert ingredients used in pesticide products. Both InertFinder and The List of Trade Names of Inert Ingredients are useful resources for applicants and have been demonstrated to improve the quality of registration applications submitted to the Agency.