



Health
Canada

Pest
Management
Regulatory
Agency

Santé
Canada

Agence de
réglementation
de la lutte
antiparasitaire

Mr. Tony Mitra
tony.mitra@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Mitra:

The Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, has forwarded to me your e-mail of October 31, 2016 regarding testing of the pesticide glyphosate in food.

Before a pesticide is allowed to be used or sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific assessment and meet strict health and environmental standards, and the product must have value. This includes examination of both active ingredient and formulated products. Pesticides must be used according to label directions under the *Pest Control Product Act*.

Registered pesticides regularly undergo re-evaluation to ensure that they continue to meet modern standards for human health and environmental protection and provide value. In 2015, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published the outcome of its extensive re-examination of glyphosate for public comment, which concluded that the products containing glyphosate do not present unacceptable risks to human health or the environment when used according to the product label directions. Following consideration of the comments received on this proposal, a final re-evaluation decision for glyphosate is anticipated to be published by March 2017 on the Health Canada website. You may find additional information regarding the above-noted consultation at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/consultations/prvd2015-01/prvd2015-01-eng.php>.

Please note that Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are set for pesticide residues in foods, in order to keep human exposure well below levels that could pose a health concern. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for monitoring pesticide residues in food, and routinely monitors food to ensure these levels are not exceeded. Their reports routinely indicate a very high level of compliance.

In November, 2015, the European Union Member States finalized their re-assessment of glyphosate, concluding that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans. In May 2016, the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization Meeting on Pesticide Residues concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to be genotoxic at anticipated dietary exposures and that

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it is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans from exposure through the diet. Currently, no pesticide regulatory authority in the world, including Health Canada, considers glyphosate to be a carcinogenic risk of concern to humans.

The PMRA is continuing to monitor new findings related to glyphosate and will take appropriate action if unacceptable human health or environmental risks are identified.

I hope that my comments are helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard Aucoin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

c.c. The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P.