



Canada: Registration of Fertilizer and Pesticides

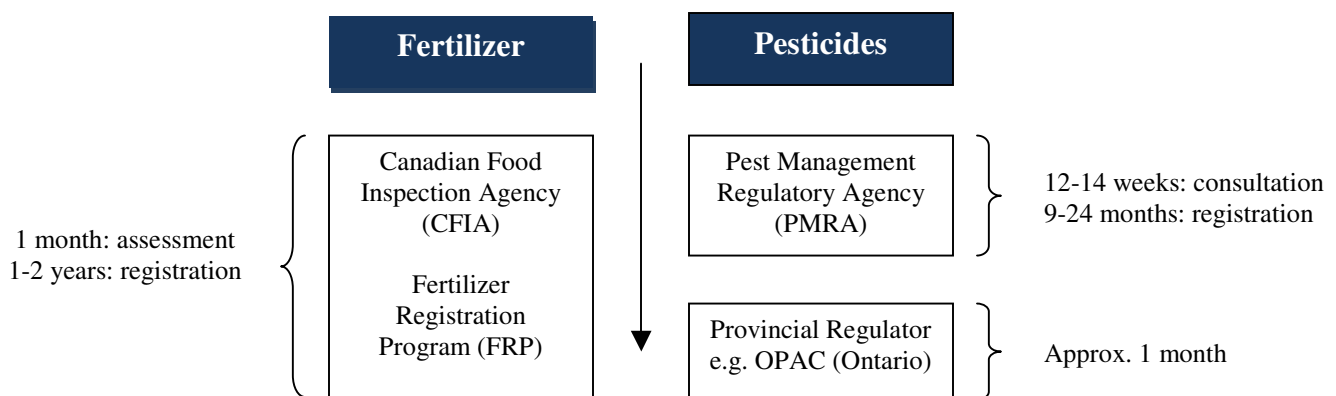
Ruth Williamson
Eugene Ace
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Federal Regulation

The sale of fertilizer and pesticide products in Canada is regulated by two central bodies at the federal level: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Fertilizers require registration with the Fertilizer Registration Program (FRP) under the umbrella of the CFIA, while pest control products are to be registered with the PMRA. In cases where the product is marketed as both a fertilizer and pest control product, registration with both organizations may be required.

The Fertilizer Registration Program offers a preliminary assessment of a product to determine whether registration with them or with the PMRA is mandatory. The outcome of the review is typically presented within one month of the submission of necessary information. To determine if registration is needed, the FRP requires four items of information: an introduction letter, a product label, a list of ingredients, and a description of the manufacturing process. If registration with the FRP is deemed mandatory the process of registering the product takes about a year, but could take as many as two years if the waiting list is long.

The PMRA also offers a preliminary review. The Pre-Submission Consultation, as it is called, allows the agency to review the product, provide guidance as to whether registration with the PMRA is required, and determine how long the process may take. The consultation takes between 12 to 14 weeks to set up. If registration is deemed mandatory, the registration process takes between 9 to 24 months, depending on the ingredients used in the product. If a case can be made to the PMRA that the product is a reduced-risk pesticide, the registration procedure may be shortened by up to 6 months.



Please Note: For products that are labeled as a fertilizer and pest-control product, combine the times suggested above, as registration is required first with the PMRA and then with the CFIA.

Provincial Regulation

Fertilizer products that do not contain a pest-control component are ready for sale after they are registered with the CFIA. Pesticides, on the other hand, require further registration at the provincial level. If a product is labeled as both a fertilizer and a pest-control product, it will require registration as a pesticide first prior to being registered as a fertilizer. Oversight of pest-control at the provincial level is usually the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment.

Ontario

In Ontario pesticide products must be classified by the Ontario Pesticide Advisory Committee (OPAC), which is under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Environment. The classification process usually takes about a month.

It is likely, but not guaranteed, that a product registered at the federal level will be classified and deemed appropriate for sale in Ontario. It is thus a good idea, especially for distributors of products that contain toxic or otherwise hazardous ingredients, to contact OPAC after the pre-submission consultation with the PMRA to check whether their product may be blocked from distribution at the provincial level.

Recently Ontario has been tightening its regulation of pesticides and in the future will produce a list of active ingredients that will be banned for use across the province for cosmetic purposes (e.g. lawn beautification). The list is being assembled by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and is expected to be released in the spring of 2009.

Resources

Each province has a regulator to register pesticide products after they have been approved and processed by the PMRA. The list of the regulatory environmental agencies for each province can be found at: <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/main/linksfpt-e.html>.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment provides information on the movement to curb the use of pesticides on its website. <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/index.php>.

Ontario Pesticide Advisory Committee (OPAC):
<http://www.opac.gov.on.ca/>

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Fertilizer Registration Program (FRP):
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/fereng/ferenge.shtml>

Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA):
<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/index-e.html>

For More Information

The U.S. Commercial Service in Toronto, Canada can be contacted via e-mail at: ruth.williamson@mail.doc.gov; Phone: (416) 595-5412, ext. 238; Fax: (416) 595-5419; or visit our website: www.buyusa.gov/canada.

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