

Protecting Crops, Feeding Communities: The Pesticide Approval Process



Globally, farmers lose up to 40% of their crops to pests, weeds, and diseases each year.

Pesticides, including conventional, organic, and biological pesticides, are essential tools for American farmers to deliver an affordable, abundant, and healthy food supply.

Pesticides must be approved by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and relevant state authorities before they can be sold or used in the U.S. Here's how the registration process works.

Federal Registration Process

Step 1: Conduct Scientific Research

Manufacturers can spend over a decade completing up to 150 studies to meet EPA's health and environmental standards before submitting a product for a registration decision.

Step 3: Review Data and Public Input

EPA scientists review data and public input to ensure a pesticide poses no unreasonable risk when used as directed. Uses of a pesticide are placed on its label.

Step 5: Monitor and Update

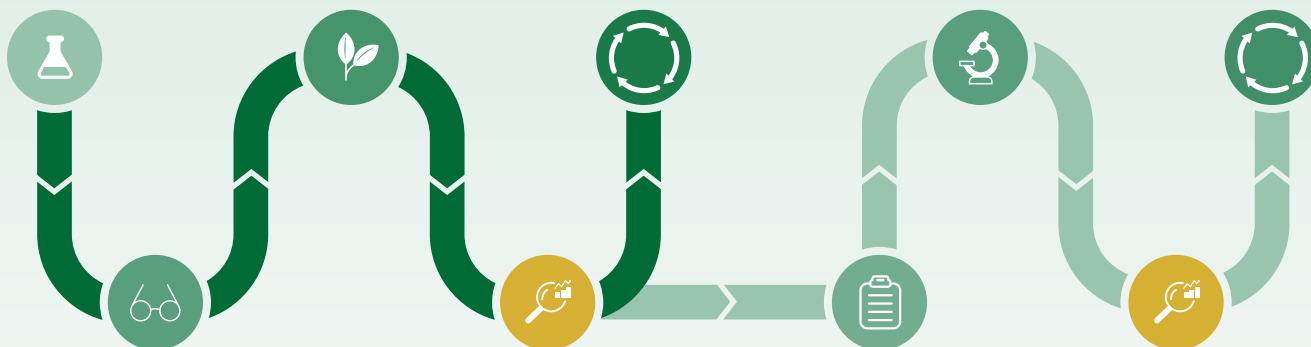
After approval, EPA continues to monitor potential pesticide impacts and reviews new scientific data to ensure health and environmental standards are maintained. The law requires all pesticides to undergo registration review every 15 years or sooner if additional information warrants earlier review.

Step 2: Review Product Label

State regulators examine the pesticide label and may conduct additional reviews to ensure the pesticide product meets both federal and state requirements.

Step 4: Renew Registration

Manufacturers renew their registration every one or two years, depending on the state.



Step 2: Submit Comprehensive Data

Manufacturers provide detailed study results and proposed uses to EPA for a full health and environmental review.

Step 4: Refine and Approve

If needed, EPA can request more studies or update label instructions to ensure the product meets the Agency's standards.

Approval

Step 1: Submit Application

Manufacturers apply for state registration by providing documentation, such as EPA approval, product details, and any state required data.

Step 3: Approve for Sale and Transport

Once approved, the pesticide can be transported, sold, and used within the state.

Approval

State Registration Process

The review of pesticides doesn't stop when they are approved for use. The process is just beginning.

1 Why is full funding of EPA OPP important?

A fully funded and staffed OPP helps ensure that the use of registered pesticides is protective of human health and the environment. CLA supports EPA's regulation of pesticides, which is based on sound science, transparency, and stakeholder engagement as codified in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

2 Why do regulators use industry generated data?

Data generation for required studies typically costs millions of dollars for each new active ingredient application or registration review. The burden for data generation should be on the applicant and not American taxpayers.

3 How does EPA help ensure the quality of data used to support pesticide registrations?

To be considered by the agency, studies must meet EPA's strict Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standards and test guidelines developed via the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). EPA conducts laboratory inspections and data audits to ensure that industry studies submitted to the agency in support of pesticide registrations are conducted with integrity, are of good quality, and are valid.

4 What is on a pesticide label?

Pesticide labels include information on active ingredients, the EPA registration number, precautionary statements such as first aid, directions for use, use restrictions, and storage and disposal. View EPA's [Label Review Manual](#) for the full list of contents.

5 Once a pesticide has been approved by a state, what kind of role do states have in ensuring compliance?

1. Producer Establishment & Marketplace Inspections: States inspect sites where pesticides are produced, distributed, and sold to ensure that the products purchased by users are properly registered and labeled.

2. Applicator Certification and Education: States work with pesticide safety educators to ensure applicators are trained and certified to use pesticides in accordance with the label. This includes training on the proper use, storage, and disposal of pesticides, and compliance with the Worker Protection Standard. Restricted use pesticides can only be applied by applicators who have this training and certification.

3. Compliance Enforcement: State inspectors conduct both routine and for-cause investigations to ensure pesticides are used according to the label. This is key to protecting applicators, workers, and the public, as well as preventing adverse effects on the environment. Lessons learned from these enforcement activities can help inform future registration decisions.