

FERTILIZER CANADA

CANADIAN FERTILIZER PRODUCTS FORUM

2015 KEY OUTCOMES

Peter McCann, CFPPF Chair

1. The members of CFPPF urge CFIA management to place a high priority on publication of the modernized Fertilizer Act Regulations.

Fertilizer supplement producers anxiously await the new regulations in anticipation of increased file processing efficiency that will result in making new products available to the Canadian farmer and other industries in a timely manner.

Incorporation by Reference is a tool we currently have available for influencing.

2. The members of CFPPF understand the importance of reducing the file application backlog however, CFIA should consider the need to both restructure categories and re-direct a portion of resources to address broader policy issues.
3. The members of CFPPF support the formation of a working group on Selenium Risk Assessment in its application to fertilizer of supplements to regulation, industry members and other interested parties to join the working group. Additionally, Fertilizer Canada will provide an update on the Boron working group and will re-institute that group if necessary.
4. The ISO Committee is currently active on setting new quality standards and measurements for the industry across all continents. It is important for members of CFPPF to get involved on the ISO-TC 134 mirror committee.
5. Fertilizer Canada will develop a letter to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food highlighting our key position statements. A copy will be circulated to the members of CFPPF.

CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS

Kerry-Leigh Burchill, Director General, Canada Agriculture Museum

The United Nations designated 2015 as the International Year of Soils and December 5 as the annual event to highlight the vital importance of soils in supporting our planet's biodiversity. This presentation highlighted the work the Canada Agriculture Museum has undertaken to promote the International Year of Soils as well as a call to partner with the museum to expand on this important topic with a long-term, comprehensive initiative.

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The museum announced a 5-year soil initiative to ensure a dynamic legacy for this critical topic. The project premise: Soil is alive and human health is dependent on soil health. Our ability to grow food, feed, fibres and fuels is inextricably linked to soil.

Working with Fertilizer Canada, the Soil Conservation Council of Canada and other industry leaders this exhibit will work to showcase sustainable agriculture and food security through the lens of soil health.

FERTILIZER PROGRAM UPDATES (SERVICE DELIVERY STANDARDS: BACKLOG SUBMISSION)

Ewa Madey & Glenn Murray, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The purposes of this presentation was to outline the following:

- To re-iterate the changes to the administration of the Fertilizer Program that took place in 2013 and their implications:
 - o Discontinuation of efficacy and quality regulation
 - o Changes to pre-market assessments for fertilizers and supplements
 - o Changes to marketplace monitoring activities
- To describe the new authorities granted by the *Agricultural Growth Act* (February 26, 2015)
- To provide a status update on Service Delivery Standards for product registrations including challenges the department is facing and remedial actions being taken to bring file review timelines back within service delivery standards
- Due to the proximity of the federal elections 2015, CFIA was not in the position to discuss or provide updates on any future changes to the Fertilizers Regulations and overall direction

URBAN PRODUCTS: ONTARIO PILOT PROJECT

Susan Antler, Executive Director, The Compost Council of Canada

This presentation highlighted the existing standards and guidelines for compost and the work currently underway by the Compost Council of Canada. This includes operator training and regional workshops as well as the Greenbin Compost Agricultural Growth Field Trial and the Ontario Pilot Project with Fertilizer Canada. This project seeks to explore compost enrichment as an alternative outlet from the MHSW collection depots for lawn and garden fertilizers.

AMMONIUM NITRATE LEGISLATION: THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Giulia Brutesco, Senior Director, Industry Standards, Fertilizer Canada

Ammonium nitrate (AN) is a valuable nitrogen fertilizer, however when mishandled its benefits are lost. For this reason, it is regulated in Canada and around the world under a number of regulatory instruments to establish safe and secure handling and storage

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practices along the supply chain. Calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) is an alternative fertilizer product originally formulated to help mitigate some of the risks associated with straight AN fertilizer, however there is no international alignment regarding its treatment in safety and security legislation. As part of a two-step process, Fertilizer Canada is conducting a review of current AN legislation to identify information and trends which could help inform policy with respect to CAN.

The question was posed to the participants: *With the majority of standards focused on an 80% threshold, what is the basis for the North American 60%?*

SELENIUM RISK ASSESSMENT

Michael Beking, Evaluator, Inorganics Unit, Environment Canada

Mustapha Souissi, Controls development engineer, Environment Canada

Pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA 1999), the Ministers of the Environment and of Health have conducted a screening assessment of selenium and its compounds as part of the Substance Groupings Initiative of Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). On July 18, 2015, the draft Screening Assessment Report and a Risk Management Scope document were released for a 60-day public comment period and the related Notice was published in the Canada Gazette, Part I.

The draft Screening Assessment Report proposes to conclude that selenium and its compounds meet the criteria under paragraph 64(a), but not 64(b) (for the environment), and meet the criteria under paragraph 64(c) (for human health), of CEPA 1999. Selenium may cause harm to aquatic, benthic and soil organisms in the vicinity of some facilities, for a number of sectors, including intensive agricultural areas. Potential human health risks were identified for certain sub-populations that have or are likely to have elevated selenium exposure levels.

The Risk Management Scope outlines options under consideration by Environment Canada and Health Canada to address the ecological and human health concerns identified for selenium and its compounds.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS: WHAT'S CHANGED?

Jackie Foster, Regulatory Specialist, Chemicals Group, Intertek Scientific & Regulatory Consultancy

In February 2015, the new Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR) were published in the Canada Gazette. These regulations set the framework for the adoption of the GHS, and changed the classification, labelling and safety data sheets (SDS) requirements for hazardous products to be used in a workplace. This presentation covered the changes brought forth by the HPR, focusing on the new SDS requirements.

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EMERGING EUROPEAN REGULATIONS

Mathew Sonier, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Novozymes BioAg Limited

Currently there is no harmonized regulation of biofertilizer/biostimulant products in Europe. This presentation looked at the existing fertilizer regulations in Europe, including the National legislations of various member states, and the plan to amend those regulations in the future.

- There is a co-existence of National legislations and a European regulation.
- Fertilizer Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003
 - Fertilizer is *a substance or mixture the main function of which is to provide nutrients to plants.*
 - This regulation only applies to mineral fertilizers (e.g. NPK, secondary-, and micro-nutrient)
 - Fertilizers compliant with the types described in 2003/2003 (composition, labeling) can circulate freely in EU.
- For biofertilizers/biostimulants, there is no harmonized regulation. Legislation exists at the National level (in some Member States).

EFFICACY: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Albert Chambers, President, Monachus Consulting

The impact of Government of Canada's decision to deregulate in the areas of efficacy and quality has continued to be the subject of discussion within the Canadian fertilizer stakeholder community from its initial announcement on March 29, 2012. The quality of agricultural inputs including fertilizers and supplements is a key determinant of agricultural productivity, food security, and sectoral competitiveness, particularly in light of emerging trends such as environmental sustainability, safety and nutritional quality of the food supply, and rapidly growing consumer demands (population growth, dietary diversification, transparency and traceability, etc.).

The Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum and various industry associations, including Fertilizer Canada, have held workshops, commissioned studies and formed ad hoc working groups to consider industry's options for providing greater transparency and accountability in these areas, including the publication of a set of best industry practices.

The objective of this set of Best Practice Guidelines for Fertilizer and Supplements Efficacy and Quality is to identify the practices which must be in place within a participating company to demonstrate that a fertilizer product or supplement is efficacious and meets the quality standards according to claims made.

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ISO TC 134: NEW GLOBAL TESTING AND REQUIREMENT STANDARDS FOR MINERAL AND ORGANIC FERTILIZERS AND LIMING MATERIALS

Jim Jenkins, Product Stewardship Manager, Agrium Inc.

***TC-134 next meeting to be scheduled:** June 2016 in Ottawa, Canada

The ISO committee for developing fertilizer test methods and requirement standards had been dormant for some time but was reactivated 3 years ago by China to have their internal test methods and fertilizer quality standards endorsed at the global level. Since then, 32+ countries have signed up to give voice to the inclusion and fair treatment of their own industry practices and basically set new quality standards and measurements for the industry across all continents.

In the past year, the ISO TC 134 scope has expanded beyond mineral fertilizers to include organic fertilizers, fertilizer definitions markings and labelling and most recently liming material standards.

This presentation reviewed the listing of current test method initiatives that are likely impacting the audience, pointed out some of the dynamics at play and the potential impacts this has for and against players in the Canadian fertilizer and liming industry.

Some of the 2015 - 2016 Work Items highlighted included:

- CRU Release rates (EN 13266)-FDIS
- Crude free water in ammoniated phosphates-CD
- Micro anions by IC-NWIP
- 2 Liming Materials Standards
 - o Determination of Neutralizing Value – NWIP
 - o Size Distribution by Wet and Dry Sieving – NWIP
- 1 Organic Fertilizer Standard
 - o Humic and Fulvic Acid Concentrations in Fertilizer – CD
- 1 Fertilizer Markings and Declarations
 - o Markings-Presentation and Declarations-CD

PENDING REGULATIONS: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Clyde Graham, Senior Vice President, Fertilizer Canada

This presentation highlighted the challenges and opportunities facing the CFPPF and the important role the membership plays in maintaining public, retailer, consumer and farmer confidence in our products.

The guiding question for us should be:

Should Canada aim to become the most trusted food system in the world?

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The presentation also highlighted the issue of counterfeit fertilizer flooding the local market in Africa and how that could affect our social license to operate.

Challenges included:

- \$4.5 Billion Market
- Backlog
- Novel & Complex Products
- Counterfeit Fertilizer
- Labelling
- Security
- Federal & Provincial Tower of Babel
- Funding and resources are required

Opportunities included:

- New Government = New ideas?
- Incorporation by Reference – Schedule II and Lists
- Efficacy Standards
- Labelling
- Licensing
- Safety



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Tell us what you think.
Take our online survey here:

