



Burson·Marsteller

## Revision of "Pesticides Registration Directive" (91/414)

Last update in October 2009

### Latest Developments

On 24 September, the Council officially adopted the two new pieces of legislation for EU plant protection products. The new legislation will set out the rules for authorisation of plant protection products as well as help leading to a better protection of agricultural production.

The new legislation confirms the high level of protection of human health and the environment while at the same time harmonising further the availability of plant protection products. Moreover, it will facilitate innovation by establishing clear criteria for approval of substances to be used in plant protection products favouring at the same time an open and competitive market for plant protection products in the European Union.

The new Regulation for placing plant protection products on the market will enter into force later this year and will become fully applicable as from 18 months following the date of publication. The framework directive for sustainable use of pesticides will enter into force the day after publication in the Official Journal.

The final wording of the framework directive regarding the use of pesticides in sensitive areas including sports grounds reflects the needs conveyed the golf sector. Please find below the final version of the relevant article.

#### *Article 12*

#### *Reduction of pesticide use or risks in specific areas*

*Member States shall, having due regard for the necessary hygiene and public health requirements and biodiversity, or the results of relevant risk assessments, ensure that the use of pesticides is minimised or prohibited in certain specific areas. Appropriate risk management measures shall be taken and the use of low-risk plant protection products as defined in Regulation (EC) No .../...+ and biological control measures shall be considered in the first place. The specific areas in question are:*

- (a) areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No .../...+, such as public parks and gardens, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and children's playgrounds and in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities;*

[Directive establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides](#)  
[Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market](#)

For more information, please visit:

[European Commission on plant protection](#)  
[European Commission press release](#)

### **Impact for golf management**

- Affect the range of pesticides available, but also ensure that all pesticides on the EU market will be compatible for environment and health.

### **Background**

On 13 January 2009 the European Parliament voted in second-reading on the regulation for the placing of plant protection products on the market (amending EU Directive 91/414). The Members of the European Parliament (MEP's) approved the agreement reached with the Council (Member States) in December.

The new pesticide approval rules introduced a hazard-based approach for granting authorisations, leading to tougher controls on neurotoxic, immunotoxic and endocrine disrupting substances. There will also be a ban on active ingredients that are carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMRs) and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBTs), and those that are harmful to honeybees.

The agreement on the new rules is based on a Swedish study identifying twenty two active substances likely to be removed from the market due to their effects to human health and the environment. These findings were accepted by a majority of Member States and MEPs but were highly contested by industry groups.

### **Links**

[Directive 91/414/EC](#)

[Draft Report On The Proposal For A Regulation Of The European Parliament And Of The Council Concerning The Placing Of Plant Protection Products On The Market](#)