

16. Evaluation of the efficacy of pesticides and medical and veterinary products

16.1 Pesticides

According to the Danish Act on Chemical Substances and Products (No. 231 of 21 April 1999), the registration of a new pesticide formulation requires documentation of the efficacy of the formulation used according to the directions on the label and under Danish conditions. The National Agency of Environmental Protection makes decisions on registration concerned with the control of the pest in question, but the Agency sends the applications to a hearing at the national laboratories, e.g. DPIL or the Plant Protection Centre. These institutes evaluate the efficacy and possible risks and drawbacks of using the formulation, including the potential for developing resistance and cross-resistance (see Annual Report 1998, p.102).

In 1999, pesticides submitted for evaluation and registration included formulations for control of rodents and various insects, such as houseflies and flies on cattle, fleas, ectoparasites on livestock, ants, cockroaches, storage pests, and household insects generally, as well as insects attacking wood or textiles. Several formulations were recommended for approval, but in some cases it was concluded that more documentation was needed, supplementary tests should be carried out, or it was recommended that, for certain reasons, the formulation should not be permitted for the use requested. The registration authorities generally followed our recommendations.

In 1999, DPIL received, as usual, a steady stream of drafts of new pesticide labels submitted to the National Agency of Environmental Protection for approval. In many cases changes were suggested or required in the directions for use.

16.2 Medical and veterinary products

Medical and veterinary medical products are registered according to a common EU-directive. Guidelines for testing the efficacy of such products have been worked out or is at the moment being established. In 1999, DPIL agreed with the Danish Medicines Agency - who makes decisions on registration of medicinal products - to comment on draft versions of guidelines for testing the efficacy of medical and veterinary products and to evaluate the efficacy and possible risks and drawbacks of using such products. In 1999, we commented on the "Guideline for the testing and evaluation of the efficacy of antiparasitic substances for the treatment and prevention of tick and flea infestations in dogs and cats" and "Guideline for efficacy testing of ectoparasiticides for sheep". Besides we evaluated the efficacy of several products for control of headlice, ticks and fleas.

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