

4 September 2018

Peter Murphy

Via: fyi-request-8463-c271cd1c@requests.fyi.org.nz

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Official Information Act Request

Dear Peter

I refer to your request for information received by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 9 August 2018, for the following information:

“Please provide me with a table of the last 5 years of Hazardous Substance reassessments initiated by the Chief Executive. As I am comparing the performance of the past CE with the incumbent, please also indicate when the current Chief Executive began.”

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Reassessments are important because hazardous substance approvals do not have an expiry date. If new scientific evidence comes to light, an issue arises, or we find that a hazardous substance is being widely used for a different purpose to that initially intended, the EPA may decide to reassess the approval. Sometimes a third party will ask the EPA to decide if grounds exist to reassess a hazardous substance.

The EPA can also be proactive in seeking information to assist in identifying whether or not there are concerns about the use of hazardous substances in New Zealand through calls for information, such as was recently released for three neonicotinoid pesticides.

The current Chief Executive of the EPA, Dr Allan Freeth, took on the role in September 2015. Since this appointment, the EPA has:

- invested to expand its reassessment work;
- developed a hazardous substances reassessments priority list; and
- completed three reassessments, which covered 30 hazardous substances approvals.

The EPA has invested to expand its reassessment work, and is in the process of setting up a specialist team to provide for systematic reviews of hazardous substances previously approved. To ensure we do the best for consumers and industry sectors generally, we have developed a priority list that sees the EPA putting its efforts into reassessing approvals of hazardous substances which, through a robust and internationally peer-reviewed system of evaluation, are in most need of reconsideration. This material is nearing completion and will be publicly released in the near future.

As per your request, below is a table displaying the Hazardous Substances Reassessments initiated by the Chief Executive over the past five years.

Year	Chemicals Reassessed	Approvals covered	Number of reassessments	Type
2018 as of 9 August 2018	-	-	0	-
2017	Chlorothanolil	5	1	Full
2016	Chlorpyrifos, diazinon & carbaryl (3 insecticides reassessed together)	19	1	Full
2015	Dichlorvos	6	2	Full
	OPCs (5 different active ingredients)	15		Modified
2014	-	-	0	-

In regard to reassessments being undertaken in 2018, the EPA is currently working on an application for the reassessment of paraquat.

A reassessment of one active ingredient can cover multiple approvals for hazardous substances. For example, the reassessment of the active ingredient chlorothanolil in 2017 covered five approvals for hazardous substances, as all five of these hazardous substances contained chlorothanolil.

A reassessment can be a full or a modified reassessment. A full reassessment reviews any aspect of the approval, such as hazard classifications and controls, and it has the power to revoke the approval. A modified reassessment looks at a particular aspect of an approval, for example a specific hazard classification or control placed on the active ingredient. Modified reassessments do not revoke approvals, they update aspects of approvals.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz. I also encourage you to watch for the release in the near future of our priority chemicals list, which may be of further interest to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fiona Thomson-Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Dr Fiona Thomson-Carter
General Manager
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms
Environmental Protection Authority