

The EPA finalised sweeping changes to the rules last year. The revisions increase required pesticide safety training, expand restrictions on entering treated fields and tighten age restrictions for workers who handle pesticides.

In the November 16th letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, the NASDA notes that the Agency has not completed “critical compliance and enforcement materials” that state officials need to enact the rule changes. The association also contends that it lacks the tools and financial resources to implement the revised WPS.

The letter restates the NASDA’s frustration with the creation of “an application exclusion zone” (AEZ) requirement, which creates a 100 ft (30m) buffer zone around the pesticide application equipment that must be free of all individuals other than the applicator during a pesticide application. State officials contend that the AEZ is vaguely defined and could cause legal headaches for regulators and farmers. In response to its concerns, the EPA’s Office of General Counsel is drafting interpretative guidance to clarify the Agency’s intent.

But the NASDA says that guidance might not suffice. “Agency guidance does not carry the weight and authority of a codified federal regulation and does not provide the necessary clarity to assist state regulatory agencies with compliance and enforcement activities,” the organisation says in its letter.

Moving the deadline back is “essential” to ensure that state officials, farmers and pesticide applicators have the “appropriate information, training, and resources” needed to implement the WPS rule changes, according to the NASDA. “Implementing these regulatory changes without providing the necessary educational resources or training materials to assist state regulatory agencies and the regulated community in understanding the new requirements and how to comply with them is inappropriate and in direct conflict with the fundamental principle of “educate before you regulate,” the letter concludes.

FMC takes over eastern European jvs

BY ANDY BEER

FMC has taken full ownership of its former agrochemical joint ventures with Nufarm in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. FMC has acquired all Nufarm shares in F&N Agro Ceska Republika (Prague) and F&N Agro Slovensko (Bratislava). The businesses will operate as FMC Agro Ceska Republika and FMC Agro Slovensko. The former 50:50 joint venture companies were founded in 1997 and sold FMC, Nufarm and third-party crop protection products in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. FMC acquired Cheminova in April 2015 and has consolidated its commercial operations across Europe. “We have broadened the FMC portfolio of crop protection products through the acquisition of Cheminova while continuing to invest in our robust product development pipeline, both in new synthetic innovative patented active ingredients as well as unique biological products that are well suited for the Czech Republic and Slovakia agricultural markets,” says Marc Hullebroeck, president of FMC’s Europe, Middle East and Africa business.

Gowan to market Isagro’s Kiralaxyl in Europe

BY ROBERT BIRKETT

US agrochemical company Gowan’s UK subsidiary, Gowan Crop Protection (Harpenden, Hertfordshire), is to be the exclusive licensee of Italian agrochemical company Isagro’s (Milan) proprietary fungicide, benalaxyl-M (trade-marked as Kiralaxyl), mixtures in Europe. The deal covers the marketing and development of all existing and to be developed mixtures in the EU and Switzerland. It includes an initial proceed for Isagro of some €5 million (\$5.4 million), already reflected in the marginal profit projected for the whole of 2016 as published in the third-quarter report.

ECJ clarifies confidentiality of pesticide emissions data

BY JACKIE BIRD

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has clarified the public access that may be allowed to information on emissions of agrochemicals and biocides into the environment, regardless of any claims of confidentiality. This would cover information concerning the nature and effects of the release of a pesticide into air, water or soil, or onto plants, it says. It would include not only information relating to actual emissions, but also

COMPANIES

COMPANIES

MARKETS / REGULATORY