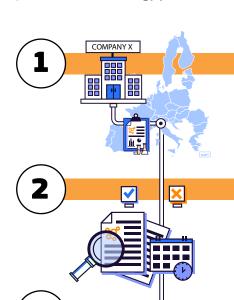


Approval of pesticides and herbicides in the EU: *How does it work?*

October 2023 #EUGreenDeal

The approval of active substances (including for herbicides) in the European Union is a rigorous process aimed at ensuring the protection of plants against pests and diseases, as well as the safety of human health and the environment. The process involves a rigorous scientific assessment by experts from the Member States and European agencies, which forms the basis for a decision on whether the substance can be used in plant protection products. The **comitology procedure** is a key element in the final step of the decision-making process



APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Companies who want to market pesticides containing a specific active substance need to submit an application for approval to a Member State (or a group of Member States), which then acts as Rapporteur Member State(s).

RAPPORTEUR MEMBER STATE(S) ASSESSMENT:

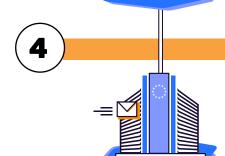
The Rapporteur Member State (or States) conducts a comprehensive evaluation of the dossier for the active substance.

The evaluation includes a risk assessment for human health and the environment, including, residues in food.



The assessment is peer-reviewed by experts from all other Member States and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) to ensure it is scientifically robust and all data are considered.

EFSA finalises its opinion (in the form of a Conclusion), based on the peer review. This is then transmitted to the European Commission, which prepares a draft review report and a draft Regulation on the approval of the active substance.



STANDING COMMITTEE DELIBERATION:

The draft Regulation for approval or non-approval is prepared by the Commission and discussed in the Standing Committee on Plant Protection Products.

The Standing Committee is composed of representatives of all EU countries and votes on the Commission proposal.

IF A QUALIFIED MAJORITY* **VOTES IN FAVOUR** of the

proposed implementing act

* A qualified majority consists of 55% of EU countries representing at least 65% of the total EU population



THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT

IT. A Regulation approving, or banning, the substance is published.

IF A QUALIFIED MAJORITY **VOTES AGAINST THE PROPOSED ACT**



THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ADOPT IT. It may return to the Committee with an

amended proposal or send the rejected proposal to the Appeal Committee

IF THERE IS NO QUALIFIED MAJORITY EITHER FOR OR **AGAINST THE PROPOSED ACT**



THE COMMISSION MAY

AMEND its proposal and return to the Committee or send it to the Appeal Committee



After the Committee delivers a positive opinion, or if the Appeal Committee delivers no opinion, the decision is adopted by the Commission. A new active substance is usually approved for a maximum of 10 years (if it is "low risk" it is approved for 15 years), while a renewed approval can be granted for up to 15 years. Approval with restrictions is also possible.



After the approval of an active substance, companies wishing to place products containing the active substance on the market must seek authorisation in the Member States, who must again assess the safety of each plant protection product for each use prior to granting an authorisation.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS



SCIENTIFIC RIGOUR

The process is underpinned by robust scientific assessments to determine the **safety** and **efficacy** of pesticides.



RISK-BASED APPROACH

Evaluations focus on potential risks to human health, animal health, and the **environment**.



TRANSPARENCY

Application dossiers. scientific assessments and proposals by the **Commission** are made public to ensure transparency.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Stakeholders, including industry, **NGOs**, and the public, may provide input during certain stages, in particular on the **draft assessment** report prepared by the Rapporteur Member State.



https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/adopting-eu-law/implementing-and-delegated-acts/ comitology en

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