

ACUTE PESTICIDE HAZARD CLASSIFICATION APPROUCH

– A propose for adequacy of the Annex III - Brazilian Health Ministry Ordinance N° 03, from January 16th, 1992.

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Introduction: In the pesticide scenario, acute hazard is the acute risk to workers health – occurrence of acute adverse effects - that might occur accidentally through unique or multiple exposures over a relatively short period of time when handling formulated products in accordance with the directions in label recommendation [1]. The hazard classification aims communicate the pesticides hazard and enables the worker handling those products to distinguish between formulations that are more or less toxic. There is a eminent necessity for adequacy of the Annex III of Health Ministry Ordinance N° 03 (16th January of 1992) [2] based on recent methodologies, new criteria approaches for hazard classification and actual proposes from different international organizations as: Food Agricultural Organization, World Health Organization [1], Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [3], United Nations Economics Commission for Europe [4] and others Regulatory Agencies bodies as: United States Environmental Protection Agency [5,6], Council Directive 91/414/EEC (European Community) [7], besides the Pesticide Industry concerns in relation to the impact to growers of the actual hazard classification and communication in course [8]. **Purpose of study:** To discuss the importance of the adequacy of the Brazilian acute hazard classification criteria considering the actual criteria being implemented internationally and propose of change. **Methods:** Review of international legislations about the theme applied in United States, European Community, Latin America countries and adopted by international organizations as FAO/WHO and UNECE. It was then done a comparison with the actual criteria implemented by Brazilian Health Agency. **Results and Conclusion:** From the comparison of the international criteria and the Brazilian acute hazard classification systems it was possible to understand the differences between those criteria's and how scientifically the second one is behind in classifying and communicating acute hazard risk. In this since it was elaborated and proposed an update of the Acute Hazard Classification criteria more actual with current used guidelines and harmonized to international criteria's. It was also considered bilateral treaties foresee pesticides regulations harmonization between countries members of MERCOSUL [9], which Brazil is signatory, among also received contribution from the Pan-American Health Organization.

References:

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