

MAF fast-tracking applications for registration of Psa control products

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The Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Group of MAF is now giving priority to applications to register and label products for the control of the bacterial kiwifruit disease Psa over other applications.

The move is designed to ensure products registered under the ACVM Act are available to growers as soon as possible and ideally before the spring growing period when Psa infection is expected to worsen.

As there are currently no registered Psa control products, growers are resorting to using products registered for use on other food crops 'off label' (meaning used for a purpose other than stated on the label). This off label use gives no certainty around effectiveness, safety or residues.

MAF recognises the kiwifruit industry urgently needs products with 'on label' claims. Those products could be either newly registered products for specific Psa control use or existing registered products with an additional approval for use against Psa.

Having products with on label claims for Psa control in the marketplace will provide:

- a degree of assurance to growers over the efficacy and residue concerns of the product;
- a level playing field for both marketers of products and the kiwifruit industry; and
- less opportunity for the sale or promotion of products making unsubstantiated claims.

Giving priority to the registration of Psa control products over other registration applications received by MAF does not mean that the approval process is any less robust. It simply places Psa product applications at the front of the queue. MAF believes this is appropriate given the limited time before the next kiwifruit growing season and the severity of the impacts of Psa disease.

It is acknowledged that by giving priority to applications for Psa control products, applicants for other uses requiring approval under the ACVM Act may be disadvantaged. MAF will, however, endeavour to process all applications within the regulatory timeframes.

Full information on registering agricultural compounds – *hyper link to:*

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/acvm/about/index.htm>

Released by

Lesley Patston | Senior Communications Adviser

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry | Pastoral House | 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand

Telephone: 64-4-894 0163 | Facsimile: 64-4-894 0300 | Mobile: 029-894 0163 | Media Phone (24 hrs) 029-894-0328 | Web: www.biosecurity.govt.nz