



Legislation in the EU to protect pollinators from pesticides

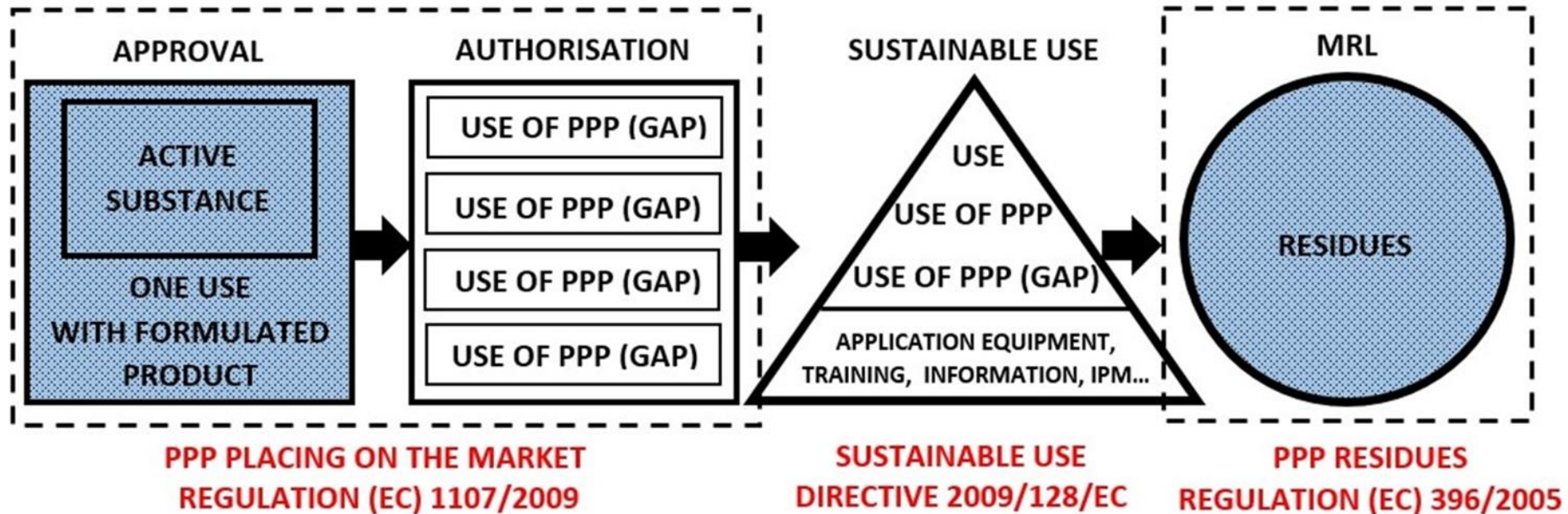
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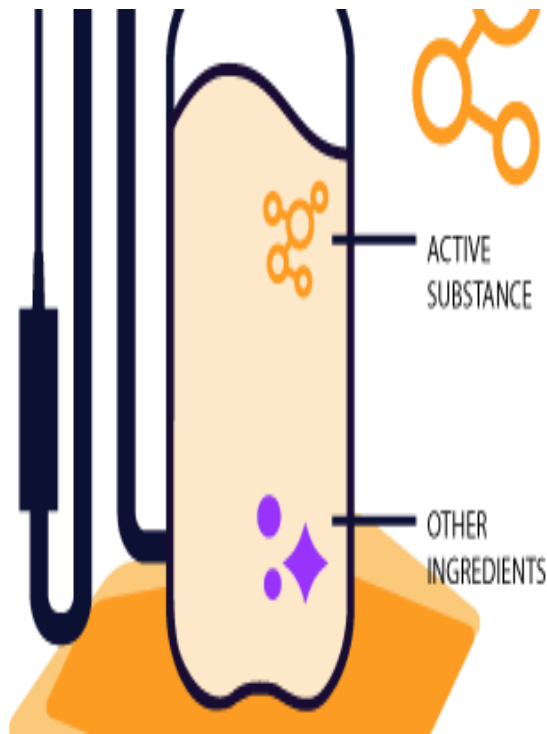
DG Health and Food Safety

European Commission

EU legal framework for pesticides



Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 (PPP Regulation)



- **Active substances**: components of PPP that actually prevent, destroy or control harmful organisms (the so-called pests, such as insects), plant diseases (fungi) or weeds.

→ STEP 1 Approval at **EU level**

- **Plant protection products**: mixtures containing one or several active substance(s) and other ingredients (so-called co-formulants).

→ STEP 2 Authorisation of each use at **MS level**

Legal provisions [\(https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/legislation-plant-protection-products-ppps_en\)](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/legislation-plant-protection-products-ppps_en)

- Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 allows active substances to be approved, on the basis of a risk assessment, only if
 - exposure to honeybees is negligible
 - or the substance has no unacceptable chronic or acute effects on colony survival and development, taking into account effects on honeybee larvae and behaviour
- Regulations (EU) 283/2013 and 284/2013 on data requirements:
 - acute (oral and contact) and chronic toxicity on bees, including sub-lethal effects
 - Effects on honeybee development and other honeybee life stages for active substances for which sub-lethal effects on growth or development cannot be excluded
 - Higher tier studies with formulations such as cage and tunnel tests or field tests with honeybees
- Regulation (EU) 546/2011 includes decision-making criteria for honeybees
- Terrestrial guidance document (SANCO/10329/2002)
 - Includes guidance on exposure and risk assessment and higher tier risk assessment. Includes risk mitigation options.
 - https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2016-10/pesticides_ppp_app-proc_guide_ecotox_terrestrial.pdf

Possibilities to protect pollinators in the PPP Regulation

Depending on the outcome of the risk assessment conducted, approvals or product authorisations must contain appropriate restrictions:

- Limiting use to time periods when pollinators are not foraging
- Prohibiting use during (or before) flowering
- Removal of flowering weeds
- Limiting the use of active substances hazardous to bees to indoor uses only



Directive 2009/128/EC (Sustainable Use Directive (SUD))

- Concerns the **USE** of PPPs by farmers and other professionals
- Reducing risks and impacts of the use of PPPs
 - On human health
 - On the environment including pollinators
- Promoting
 - The use of Integrated Pest Management – legal requirement
 - The use of alternative techniques

Sustainable Use Directive Requirements

- Member States to establish action plans at national level, and to verify their implementation by PPP professional users as part of official controls at farm level;
- European Commission to verify:
 - the application of EU requirements, and
 - functioning of national control systems in different areas of food safety, including sustainable use of pesticides

by performing controls in Member States, including audits (OCR).

Revision of the Sustainable Use Directive

- Implementation of the Farm to Fork reduction targets:
 - Target 1: to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030
 - Target 2: to reduce by 50% the use of more hazardous pesticides by 2030
- Commission plans to publish the new SUD legislative proposal on 23 March 2022
- Opportunity to address weaknesses in current SUD
- Key policy in achieving Farm to Fork reduction targets and making transition away from chemical pest control

Useful links on the protection of pollinators from pesticides

- European Commission
 - https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/approval-active-substances_en
 - https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/protection-bees_en
 - https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/sustainable-use-pesticides_en
 - https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/approval-active-substances/renewal-approval/neonicotinoids_en
- European Food Safety Authority
 - Information on individual active substances: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/pesticides>
 - Bee Guidance review: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/pesticides-and-bees-guidance-review>
 - Bee health: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/bee-health>

Thank you



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