



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

February 24, 2004

Bureau of Pesticides Management
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials,
New York Dept of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7254

Attention: Robin Hackett (rlhackett@gw.dec.state.ny.us)
Phone: (518) 402-8768
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File symbol: 04-NY-10
Expiration: February 1, 2005
Report due: August 1, 2005

The Environmental Protection Agency hereby grants a specific exemption under the provisions of section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation for the use of coumaphos impregnated in plastic strips to be hung in beehives to control Varroa mites (*spp.*) and small hive beetles (*Aethina tumida*). This specific exemption is subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in your application as well as the following:

1. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for ensuring that all provisions of this specific exemption are met. It is also responsible for providing information in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §166.32. Accordingly, a report summarizing the results of this program must be submitted to EPA Headquarters and the EPA Region 2 office by August 1, 2005 or prior to requesting another specific exemption for this use.
2. The product, CheckMite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strip, containing 10% coumaphos (currently there is no EPA Registration number) may be used. All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the proposed product label submitted by the state must be followed.
3. A maximum of 84,128 CheckMite+Strips may be used.

4. Treatments must be applied at a time when bees are not producing a surplus honey crop. Chemical resistant gloves (such as waterproof material) must be worn when handling strips.

5. To control varroa mite, remove honey supers before application of CheckMite+ Strips and do not replace supers until 14 days after the strips are removed. Use one strip for each five combs of bees in each brood chamber (Langstroth deep frames or equivalent in other sizes). Hang the strips in separate spaces between the combs as near the center of the bee/brood cluster as possible. If two deep brood chambers are used for the brood nest, hang the CheckMite+ Strips in both the top and bottom brood chambers. Treat all infested colonies within the yard. The treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest. Effective control may be achieved by treating hives in the spring before the first honey flow and in the fall after the last honey flow. For maximum efficacy leave the strips in the hive for at least 42 days (six weeks). Do not leave strips in hive for more than 45 days. Do not treat more than twice a year for varroa mites. Honey supers may be replaced 14 days after strips are removed.

6. To control the small hive beetle, remove honey supers before application of CheckMite+ Strips and do not replace until 14 days after the strips are removed. Prepare a piece of corrugated cardboard approximately 4x4 inches by removing one side. Remove one CheckMite+ Strip. Cut strip in half crossways and staple the two pieces to the corrugated side of the cardboard. Tape over the smooth side of the cardboard (the side opposite the strips) with duct tape, shipping tape or similar tape to prevent the bees from chewing and removing the cardboard. Or use one sided plastic corrugated sheets. Place cardboard as near to the center of the bottom board as possible with the strips down. Make sure the bottom board is clean and the strips lay flat on the bottom board. For maximum efficacy leave the strips in the hive for at least 42 days (six weeks). Do not leave strips in hive for more than 45 days. Do not treat more than four times per year for the small hive beetle. Honey supers may be replaced 14 days after strips are removed.

7. Based on residue data submitted to the Agency by Bayer Corporation coumaphos residues are not expected to exceed 0.1 part per million (ppm) in honey and 100 ppm in honeycomb. The Agency has determined that these residue levels are adequate to protect the public health. Time-limited tolerances at these levels have been established and will expire December 31, 2004. The expiration date will be extended to support the 2004 use season.

8. Adequate enforcement methodology (LC/MS/MS) is available to enforce the tolerance expression. The method for honey is Bayer Method 150.803 and for honeycomb is Bayer Method 150.804. Either method may be requested from: Calvin Furlow, PRRIB, IRSD (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-5229; e-mail address: furlow.calvin@epa.gov.

9. The EPA Headquarters and Regional office shall be immediately informed of any adverse effects or misuse resulting from the use of this pesticide in connection with this exemption.

10. The use of coumaphos impregnated in plastic strips to be hung in beehives to control varroa mite and small hive beetle is not expected to have any adverse effects on the environment since it is considered an indoor use.

11. Coumaphos treatments to beehives can be made until February 1, 2005.

Any future correspondence in connection with this exemption should refer to file symbol 04-NY-10.

_____/s/
Lois Rossi, Director
Registration Division

cc:

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