

## **2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate Final Re-evaluation Decision** by Health Canada

This article is intended to provide information to Retailers (Rural Municipality Offices or County Offices) and end Users (Farmers) on important dates regarding the cancellation of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (Registration No. 30433 PCP Act) for use on Richardson's ground squirrels (the gopher).

On March 4, 2020, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published the final re-evaluation decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and its Associated End-use Products (Richardson's Ground Squirrels). The PMRA reviewed available scientific information and considered comments submitted by stakeholders when making their decision.

The re-evaluation concluded the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrel are not acceptable when the product is used according to the label directions, or when additional risk mitigation measures are considered. Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, PMRA cancelled strychnine products used to control Richardson's ground squirrel populations

### **Key Messages:**

---

- Health Canada's primary objective in regulating pesticides is to protect the health of Canadians and the environment. Pesticides must undergo a rigorous science-based review before being approved for sale and use in Canada.
- Health Canada regularly reviews pesticides under the *Pest Control Products Act* to ensure that they continue to meet modern health and environmental safety standards.
- Following a re-evaluation process, Health Canada cancelled the use of Strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrels to protect non-target animals, including species at risk, such as the swift fox and burrowing owl, from strychnine-related poisonings.
- The March 4, 2020 re-evaluation decision applies only to the strychnine products registered for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels. Strychnine products registered to control wolves, coyotes, skunks and black bears are unaffected by this decision. The distribution and use of these

products is only for use by applicators authorized by the Province of Alberta. Please refer to the label of the pest control product and the government department responsible for its use.

### **Important Dates:**

To comply with the re-evaluation decision, the registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (Registration No. 30433 PCP Act) is cancelled and is subject to the following phase out timelines:

- Last date of Sale by **Registrant** is **March 4, 2021**,
- Last date of Sale by **Retailer** is **March 4, 2022**,
- Last date permitted for use by the **User** is **March 4, 2023**.

Proper disposal of all unsold existing stock is the responsibility of the registrant of 2% Liquid Strychnine and is to be done in accordance with the label directions and any applicable provincial laws. This includes disposal of all unsold stock in the distribution and retail chain following the above schedule. Furthermore, the registrant is responsible for providing information to members of the distribution and retail chain regarding the above-specified last dates. The registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate will expire after the March 4, 2023 the last day of permitted use. Continued possession and/or use of the product after this date is a violation of the *Pest Control Products Act*.

If you have questions about the cancellation of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate, a copy of the Final Re-evaluation Decision RVD RVD2020-06 can be found at this link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/strychnine.html>.

Questions about this re-evaluation decision can be directed to the PMRA's Pest Management Information Service by phone (1-800-267-6315) or by e-mail ([hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca)).