

Subject: Federal Agency in Germany suspends immediately seed treatments suspected of causing causing bee die off

Below a quick and dirty translation of the order to suspend the approvals:

Federal consumer protection and food safety agency

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PRESS

BVL orders the suspension of the approval for seed treatment products

The Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety yesterday, May 15th 2008, due to the fact that recent calculations within the approval procedure have provided new insights, ordered the suspension of of the approval with immediate enforcement pursuant to Section 80 Paragraph 2, sentence 1 No. 4 VwGO for the following seed treatment products:

- Antarc, BVL registration number 4674-00
- Chinook, BVL registration number 4672-00
- Cruiser 350 FS, BVL registration number 4914-00
- Cruiser OSR, BVL registration number 4922-00
- Elado, BVL registration number 5849-00
- Faibel, BVL registration number 4704-00
- Mesuroil liquid, BVL registration number 3599-00
- Poncho, BVL registration number 5272-00

This decision was made after a thorough examination of the current facts in light of the damage to honey bees in the south-western regions of Germany. For the BVL it was necessary to examine whether a relationship exists between the reported poisoning of bees and the planting of seeds treated with plant protection products.

This examination revealed, that the distribution of insecticide-treated seed with pneumatic drilling equipment constructed in a certain way resulted in a higher exposure of bees, then the approval process originally assumed.

New risk assessments, initiated because of the damage to bees and which take this increased exposure into account, make it appear likely, that it can not be ruled out, that the impact of this exposure will lead to unacceptable effects on bees. In this context, the safety of the user in the seeding process will be reviewed as well.

Because of these new findings, in order to avoid further damage to the bees and to definitively clarify the relationship and possible further impact on the environment we order for precautionary reasons until further notice a suspension of registration.

Also the regional agencies responsible for advising on the use of plant protection products have been informed immediately to inform the users accordingly.

Background information on the suspension of authorisation

With the suspension of the licences no imports, no marketing and no continued application of the plant protection products is permitted.

The same applies to Section 16e para 2 PflSchG also for plant protection products for which a transport certificate with reference to any of the above approvals was granted.