# Australia opens review of Chlorpyrifos-Methyl amid health, environmental and trade concerns

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Australia's pesticide regulator has initiated a comprehensive review of chlorpyrifos-methyl, a widely used insecticide, as part of an ongoing effort to ensure agricultural chemicals continue to meet contemporary safety, environmental, and trade standards.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) announced that the reconsideration will encompass all registered products containing chlorpyrifos-methyl, associated label approvals, and approvals relating to the active constituent itself.

The review was triggered by concerns surrounding the potential presence of toxic impurities in the active ingredient, as well as broader questions regarding possible impacts on human health, environmental safety, and international trade.

According to the APVMA, the reassessment will evaluate potential risks related to worker health and safety, dietary exposure, environmental outcomes, and the implications of chemical residues for export markets.

While the regulator has identified sufficient grounds to warrant a detailed review, it emphasized that currently available evidence does not indicate an immediate threat requiring urgent regulatory intervention.

"None of the information currently available to the APVMA indicates an imminent risk that would require immediate regulatory action," the agency stated, while noting that it retains the authority to act swiftly should new evidence emerge demonstrating an immediate risk to human health.

The review reflects growing global scrutiny of organophosphate-based crop protection products as regulators increasingly reassess older active ingredients against evolving scientific standards and international market requirements.

As part of the process, the APVMA has opened a public consultation seeking stakeholder input on the scope and rationale for the reconsideration. Industry participants, researchers, growers, exporters, and other interested parties have until 8 September 2026 to submit feedback.

The regulator has outlined a review period of 42 months, beginning after the consultation closes. However, officials noted that a final decision could be reached sooner if all scientific and regulatory assessments are completed ahead of schedule.

The outcome of the review could have implications for agricultural producers, crop protection manufacturers, and export-oriented supply chains that rely on chlorpyrifos-methyl-based products for pest management.

The reassessment underscores the increasing importance of balancing agricultural productivity with food safety, environmental stewardship, and market access requirements as regulatory frameworks evolve worldwide.