



January 30, 2023

Submitted Via: [pmra.regulatory.affairs-affaires.reglementaires.arla@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:pmra.regulatory.affairs-affaires.reglementaires.arla@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)  
Health Canada  
2720 Riverside Drive Information Service:  
A.L. 6607 D  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

**SUBJECT: Request for comments on PRO2022-01 “Pre-Consultation – Proposed Regulatory Amendments to the Pest Control Products Regulations (Research)” published December 16, 2022**

Dear PMRA:

The Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on PRO2022-01 “Pre-Consultation – Proposed Regulatory Amendments to the Pest Control Products Regulations (Research)” published December 16, 2002.

BPIA promotes the responsible development of safe and effective biological products including biopesticides, biostimulants, and biofertilizers. These beneficial tools are used in a variety of settings, including commercial agriculture, forestry, golf courses, home gardens, horticulture, and ornamentals. BPIA supports public health through education, outreach, and advocacy activities at the state, federal and international levels. BPIA’s membership includes large, medium, and small producers of biological pest control products used extensively by farmers in Canada.

BPIA is responding specifically to section 3.3.1 Establishing exemptions for research involving microbial agents. BPIA supports this exemption as it will reduce the regulatory burden allowing research to be contracted in a more expeditious manner.

While the BPIA supports this amendment to the Pest Control Product Regulations, we do have one concern regarding research involving microbial agents, Paragraph 53(c)(iv) of the Pest Control Product Regulations currently lists the following as one of the criteria for notification: *the application of the pest control product is carried out on a maximum of 10 ha of land owned or operated by a research establishment or, in the case of an aquatic application, on a body of water that has a maximum of 1 ha of surface area and that is wholly contained on land owned or operated by a research establishment.* This criterion is prohibitive to registrants who conduct their own research but are not research establishments that own or operate land for research. Often these researchers partner with research collaborators who own or operate land that they make available for research. If this criterion remains as is, research conducted on the land of research collaborators will not be exempt and will not benefit from the reduction on regulatory burden being proposed.

BPIA also notes that, in contrast to the current criteria for notification of research with microbial agents, the criteria for notification of research with chemical pest control products allows for research conducted on land owned by collaborators. Regarding research involving chemical pest control products, Paragraph 53(b)(vii)(A) of the Pest Control Product Regulations currently lists the following as one of the criteria for notification: *the application of the pest control product is carried out by a researcher or cooperator on 10 to 50 ha of land owned or operated by a research establishment or a cooperator.* To align the criteria for microbial agents with those for chemical pest control products, and to allow researchers who conduct research on research collaborators' land to benefit from the expected reduction in regulatory burden. Therefore, considering the proposed amendment, BPIA respectfully requests that the current criteria for notification of research with microbial agents be revised to allow for research conducted on land owned by collaborators.

Sincerely,

**BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY ALLIANCE**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith J. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith J. Jones  
Executive Director