



August 21, 2023

Via Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Ms. Susan Bartow
Pesticide Re-evaluation Division (7508M)
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20460-0001

**SUBJECT: Pesticide Registration Improvement Act Bilingual Labeling Requirements:
Making Bilingual Pesticide Labeling Accessible to Farmworkers
Docket ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0270
Submission of Comments**

Dear Ms. Bartow:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject [Pesticide Registration Improvement Act Bilingual Labeling Requirements: Making Bilingual Pesticide Labeling Accessible to Farmworkers](#). The Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA) submits herewith these comments regarding EPA's proposals outlined in the *Federal Register* notice (88 FR 39845) published on 2023-06-20.

By way of introduction, BPIA promotes the responsible development of safe and effective biological products including biopesticides and biostimulants. These beneficial tools are used in a variety of settings, including commercial agriculture, forestry, golf courses, home gardens, horticulture, and ornamentals. BPIA also supports public health through education, outreach, and advocacy activities at the state, federal and international levels. BPIA's membership includes both large and small producers of biological pest control products and biostimulants used extensively by US farmers, including organic growers, as well as producers of pesticide inert ingredients.

DISCUSSION

BPIA appreciates the opportunity to comment on farmworker accessibility to bilingual labeling. BPIA strongly supports the use of bilingual safety and health labeling for pesticide products. BPIA members are committed to providing the information required under PRIA 5. The questions posed by EPA in the *Federal Register* notice are addressed below.

1. What communication approaches, processes or strategies should the Agency consider to ensure bilingual pesticide labels are accessible to farmworkers? What specific approaches should the Agency avoid or adopt when implementing efforts to best ensure access by farmworkers to bilingual pesticide labels?

A variety of means will be necessary to ensure that bilingual pesticide labels are accessible to farmworkers. Key to this will be the Agency's interaction with other federal, state, and local officials, as well as non-governmental organizations, such as the Farm Bureau, industry trade associations, and farmworker organizations (e.g., United Farm Workers, Farmworker Justice). Establishing a strong coalition will increase the reach and accessibility of this vital information to the workers who need it.

2. What technologies, mobile applications, and internet access should the Agency consider? Would web-based labels be accessible to farmworkers? How should the Agency overcome internet connectivity issues that some farmworkers may face?

BPIA believes that using technological means, such as QR codes or website links on labels, is the most efficient way to get information into the hands of farmworkers quickly. Utilizing EPA's "non-notification" process, these translations will be able to be posted and updated any time there is a change in labeling or in the EPA Spanish Translation Guide. The changes will not be reliant on the printing and distribution of product with revised labeling, which can take up to 18 months to implement. Additionally, many companies utilize third party databases, such as Agrian and CDMS, where current state-specific labeling and safety data (e.g., Safety Data Sheets) are housed. These databases are another source where bilingual labeling may be accessed.

It should be noted that both the EPA and Health Canada are currently engaged in IT modernization efforts that are not only complementary to each other, but will directly inform "best practices" for use of technology to not only deliver structured label content to a regulatory agency for review and decision but to also allow for delivery of an "electronic label" to a user in the field. A pilot program was recently initiated by Health Canada (IT PMRA Structured Label Pilot¹) on structured label content and delivery and is being considered by similar efforts now underway at EPA, specifically led by the Pesticide Program Dialog Committee Label Reform Workgroup². BPIA encourages EPA to consider the learnings from these two important ongoing efforts when incorporating technology advancements to overall future pesticide label review and approval processes.

BPIA acknowledges that internet connectivity can be an issue when out in the field. It is best if the information is obtained prior to going into the field. This way, the farmworkers will have access prior to starting their workday and can review the precautions and prepare for using pesticides in the field.

3. How can the Agency effectively share health and safety information on pesticide labels with farmworkers? What should on-the-ground logistics look like? Which entities (e.g., community-based organizations) should the Agency work with to provide label information to farmworkers?

Getting information into the hands of farmworkers is the most important part of the bilingual labeling initiative. BPIA suggests that EPA engage with other federal and state agencies with responsibility for workplace safety, such as the US Department of Labor, which is responsible for providing many of the safety posters and doing spot checks for safety and welfare on farms and other workplaces where pesticides may be used. The Agency might consider working with the relevant safety agencies to develop a pesticide safety-specific poster, with similar placement as an OSHA poster, that lists all the possible signal words on pesticides with general health and safety information associated with pesticides in these categories while directing the user to the pesticide label for specific instructions.

4. As the Agency implements actions to meet this requirement, how can EPA effectively increase farmworker access to bilingual pesticide labels (e.g., communication plans, outreach strategies)?

Increasing access to bilingual pesticide labels will require a group effort led by EPA but in cooperation with federal, state, and local authorities along with the pesticide registrant community. One effort that could prove very useful would be for EPA to engage state agencies to help institute a mandatory training program during the pesticide license certification and renewal process. The licensed individual(s) should be trained on how to properly disseminate the information on the Spanish label sections to the farmworkers, and ensure the information is understood by crew members that will come in contact with the pesticide.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, BPIA supports the Agency's efforts to provide reliable, accurate health and safety information to non-English-speaking US farmworkers. BPIA members are committed to generating and maintaining bilingual labeling

¹ See [Stakeholder meetings and engagement activities - Transformation Agenda of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency - Canada.ca](#)

² [US EPA - PPDC Label Reform Workgroup](#)

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and safety data sheets for their products that provide this important information to ensure safe, effective use of pesticide products

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on bilingual labeling availability to and accessibility by farmworkers. Should you have any questions about this response, please feel free to contact me.

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