



## PESTICIDES – AGRICULTURAL

**Other Names** Many specific trade names, class typically known as pesticides.

**CAS Number** **Substance**

**Various** Refer to the full pesticide list described in the AFIRM RSL<sup>1</sup>

**May Be Found In**

- Plant based fibers (primarily cotton), but potential exists in hemp, sisal, linen
- Animal based fibers
- Animal hides/skins

**Pesticides are substances or mixtures of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate for any pest. Pesticides can also include substances or mixtures of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.**

### Uses in the Supply Chain

Pesticides may be used in upstream agricultural processes to manage a variety of pests. Pesticides may also be added to animal skins such as leather, or to natural fibers such as wool. Pesticides may also be used to control pests or vegetation around facilities.

### Why Pesticides (Agricultural & Residual) are Restricted

- Legislation in major markets around the world restricts the presence of pesticides in finished materials and products.
- Multiple international organizations have restricted or phased out of specific pesticides such as:
  - The World Health Organization (WHO) list of hazardous pesticide class 1A (extremely hazardous) and 1B (highly hazardous) based on acute risk<sup>2</sup>
  - Pesticides listed on Annex A and B of the Stockholm Convention for Persistent Organic Pollutants<sup>3</sup>
  - Pesticides listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam convention<sup>4</sup>
- Chemical hazard information for many chemicals can be found at the following external databases:
  - GESTIS Substance Database: [Here \(external link\)](#)
  - US National Library of Medicine: [Here \(external link\)](#)
  - US OSHA Occupational Chemical Database: [Here \(external link\)](#)

### Sourcing Compliant Materials from Your Suppliers

- Contact your suppliers and explain that you require their manufactured materials to be compliant with the current AFIRM RSL limits.<sup>1</sup>
- Require suppliers to submit a confirmation of material compliance or a test report from a third-party laboratory.
- When materials are received, consider performing risk-based testing to ensure the current AFIRM RSL limits are met.
- Share this information sheet with your material suppliers so they have full visibility and understand your sourcing requirements.
- Engage with partners such as the Better Cotton Initiative that focus on upstream suppliers and agricultural practices to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous pesticides.

### Sourcing Compliant Formulations from Your Chemical Suppliers

- For all formulations, request SDS documentation that meets current GHS requirements.
- Discuss with your chemical supplier whether any safer alternatives are available that are suitable substitutes for your production needs.
- Prior to procuring any formulation, the chemical properties must be reviewed to ensure that proper protective



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equipment, chemical storage facilities, facility engineering controls, and associated treatment/disposal facilities are appropriate for the chemical(s).

### Safer Alternatives

- Safer alternatives may be available for use in and around a production facility.
- Any pesticide in use should only be used at the proper application rate, and only for the correct application.
- Any applied pesticide must be vetted from a chemical hazard perspective, based on a per-use basis considering both the end user and the upstream processing required.
- Upstream alternatives depend on the specific pest type.
- Safer alternatives for pesticides include using less applied chemistry, and improvements in the storage and transportation environments of raw materials and finished goods.

### Additional Information

Visit ECHA's Candidate List of substances of very high concern to view dossiers for many restricted substances

<https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>.

In general, pesticides used in agriculture are designed to break down in the environment in a relatively short period of time. Incorrect application of pesticides such as over application must be avoided as this may cause unintended runoff into surface water bodies or increase the potential for human exposure.

### References

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- <sup>1</sup> Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management Group Restricted Substances List (AFIRM RSL) <http://afirm-group.com/afirm-rsl/>
- <sup>2</sup> World Health Organization Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard. [https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides\\_hazard\\_rev\\_3.pdf](https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard_rev_3.pdf)
- <sup>3</sup> Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2004). <http://www.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/3351/Default.aspx>
- <sup>4</sup> Rotterdam Convention Annex III Chemicals. <http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Chemicals/AnnexIIIChemicals>