

Biocidal Products Committee (BPC)

Opinion on a request according to Article 75(1)(g) of
Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 on

Methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides

ECHA/BPC/406/2023

Adopted

23 November 2023



BPC
BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS
COMMITTEE

Opinion of the Biocidal Products Committee

on methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides

In accordance with Article 75(1)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products, the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) has adopted this opinion on methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides.

This document presents the opinion adopted by the BPC.

Process for the adoption of BPC opinion

A request by the Commission was received by ECHA on 02 December 2019 for the development of methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides. ECHA was appointed as the rapporteur of the mandate.

The draft guidance describing the methodology was shared for a written consultation by the Guidance Consultation Expert Group (GCEG) formed by the Environment Working Group and nominated experts from accredited stakeholder organisations from 21 April to 18 May 2023. A meeting by the GCEG was held on 27 June 2023 in connection to BPC Environment WG-II-2023 meeting. Following the consultation, the draft guidance was amended according to the outcome of the discussion.

In September 2023, the revised draft guidance was brought for consultation to the Member State Competent Authorities and Commission services. Being a Commission mandate to the BPC (pursuant BPR Art. 75(1)(g)), the guidance is finalised in the form of the BPC Opinion (BPC-49).

Adoption of the BPC opinion

Rapporteur: ECHA

The BPC opinion was reached on 23 November 2023.

The BPC opinion was adopted by consensus.

The opinion is published on the ECHA web-site at:

<https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/biocidal-products-regulation/approval-of-active-substances/opinions-on-article-75-1-g>.

Detailed BPC opinion and background

1. Request for the opinion and conclusions

1.1 The questions referred to ECHA

The Commission requested ECHA to formulate an opinion on the following questions¹:

- To develop a guidance for assessing the risks to arthropod pollinators (including bees) from biocides exposure in order to ensure a high and harmonised level of protection of the environment, taking into account EFSA's Guidance Document on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Bees.
- To specify the information required to enable a conclusion by the evaluating authority on whether the product complies with the criteria under Article 19(1)(b)(iv) concerning bees and other arthropod pollinators.

1.2 Summary

In response to the request of the mandate, an ECHA Guidance Document was prepared to describe how to perform a risk assessment for bees, in accordance with Article 19(1)(b)(iv) of the BPR, provided in Annex I of this Opinion:

Annex Ia: Guidance on the assessment of risks to bees from the use of biocides

Annex Ib: Appendix B – Shortcut values for contact and dietary exposure

The guidance document was prepared by ECHA together with a group of experts from different Member States, as well as with the support from stakeholder organizations. The guidance document for the risk assessment of bees from the use of biocides was developed by taking into account the existing guidance available from EFSA for the risk assessment of plant protection products.

For arthropod pollinators other than bees, an overview of the literature and a database search on the ecology and sensitivity of these non-bee pollinators were provided together with recommendations for further research and considerations for future development of guidance.

2. BPC opinion on the Methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides

Upon request by the European Commission, ECHA developed a guidance for assessing the risks to arthropod pollinators (including bees) from the use of biocides, taking into account EFSA's Guidance on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees. The ECHA Guidance Document describes how to perform a risk assessment for bees, in accordance with Article 19(1)(b)(iv) of the BPR.

For arthropod pollinators other than bees, a full description on the current state of knowledge is provided in the ECHA 2022 publication "*European arthropods and their role in pollination: scientific report of their biodiversity, ecology and sensitivity to biocides*"². These non-bee pollinators include species such as flies, beetles, moths, butterflies, and wasps, and can be considered a sub-group of non-target terrestrial arthropods. Further research is

¹ Mandate requesting ECHA opinions under Article 75(1)(g) of the BPR "Methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides". Ref. Ares(2019)7403041 - 02/12/2019

² https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17231/nbp_report_en.pdf/7ea8718e-2d64-141e-9f23-3c9207dcd824?t=1662372417706

needed for the development of future guidance on the risk assessment of the non-bee pollinators from the use of biocides.

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Annex Ia: Guidance on the assessment of risks to bees from the use of biocides

The guidance will be published on the ECHA web-site at: [Guidance on biocides legislation - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](#).

Annex Ib: Appendix B to the ECHA Bee guidance – Shortcut values for contact and dietary exposure

The guidance will be published on the ECHA web-site at: [Guidance on biocides legislation - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](#).