

**REPORT OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS ON
PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS**

Carried out during 2012

[Article 68, Regulation (EC) 1107/2009]

Coordinating National Authority:

***Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food,
Directorate of Plant Produce Protection***

SUMMARY

This report describes the outcome of the official controls on plant protection products, made during 2012 in Greece under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

The control program was mainly affected by three different facts that happened in 2012:

- A. Law 4036/2012 was voted and published for the additional measures needed for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and also for the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC. So as, a numerous Ministerial decrees, Presidential Decrees and circulars had to be published.
- B. A Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit in Greece was carried out between 2 to 9 May 2012, under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed controls and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, which resulted to 13 recommendations and an action plan was compiled for the needed modifications to the control system.
- C. A strong economic crisis affected also the pesticide controls system, by the way of the lack of resources.

In 2012 the whole control system on pesticides was re-organized under the light of the above events. The control results are considered to be satisfactory, taking account the above difficulties.

LEGAL BASIS

Relevant EU Legislation

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC

According to article 68 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, Member States shall carry out official controls in order to enforce compliance with this Regulation. They shall finalise and transmit to the Commission a report on the scope and the results of these controls within six months of the end of the year to which the reports relate.

Relevant national legislation

The basic relevant national legislation is law 4036/2012 "*Placing of pesticides in the market, sustainable use and relevant provisions*" which was published in the Official Journal on January 27th, 2012. As mentioned in article 1, par. 1a, the scope of the law was among other to establish the necessary measures for the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

ORGANIZATION COMPETENCIES OF THE CONTROL AUTHORITIES

A. Central authority

The Directorate of Plant Produce Protection (DPPP) of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF) is designated as the Coordinating National Authority (CNA), to coordinate and ensure all the necessary contacts with applicants, other Member States, the Commission and the Authority and to supervise the control system.

Contact person for control measures

The contact person for control measures is: Mr. Dionysios Ch. Vlachos, Agronomist Msc, Department of Pesticides, Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

B. Onsite inspections

Directorates of Rural Economy and Veterinary Medicine of the Regional Units (DREVM of RU) and the Regional Centers for Plant Protection and Quality Control (RCPPQC) are designated for the implementation of controls on the marketing and use of PPPs.

The structure of controls on marketing of plant protection products is described below:

Responsible authority	Control scope	Control item
DREVS of RU and RCPPQC	Placing in the market of non authorized products	Non EU authorized products Illegal parallel trade Phase-out products
DREVS of RU and RCPPQC	Guaranteed composition	Sampling and analysis of PPPs
DREVS of RU and RCPPQC	Labelling	Label inspections
DREVS of RU and RCPPQC	PPPs advertisement	Advertisement inspections
DREVS of RU and RCPPQC	PPPs sales	Inspections at retailers and wholesalers

C. Laboratories

The network of official control laboratories consists of the following laboratories:

1. Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute
2. Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Thessaloniki
3. Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Pireaus
4. Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Herakleion
5. Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Achaia

The Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute is designated as the Central National Lab for the controls on PPPs. The Benaki Lab conducts also comparative analysis of parallel import products.

The Central Competent Authority (CCA) is responsible for drafting the control program and assisting the local authorities for the implementation of the program. Local authorities which are the Directorates of Rural Economy and Veterinary Service of the Regional Units (DREVS of RU) and the Regional Centers for Plant Protection and Quality Control (RCPPQC) are responsible for the implementation of the program and the required inspections. In case of infringements, a case file is fulfilled by the local authorities and sent to Central Competent Authority for administrative sanctions and to Justice for punitive sanctions. For each case the Central Competent Authority prepares a proposal to the General Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF), who impose the administrative sanctions.

CONTROL PROGRAM OF 2012

The control program for the year **2012** was issued with the Ministerial Decree num. 746/9446/2012/3-4-2012. According to the program, the following are planned:

- ✓ Intensification of the controls for non authorized plant protection products.
- ✓ Intensification of the controls for plant protection products of parallel trade.

- ✓ Sampling and comparative analysis of plant protection products of parallel trade by the Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute.
- ✓ Intensification of the controls of pesticide sales
- ✓ Intensification of the controls at user level
- ✓ Inspections regarding labeling and composition according to the following table:

Plant protection products containing the following active substances:	Control Laboratory
Abamectin, nicosulfuron, imidacloprid, prochloraz, fluometuron, metamitron, epoxiconazole, lambda-cyhalothrin and azoxystrobin	Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute
Chlorpyrifos (EC formulation) and lambda-cyhalothrin (CS formulation)	Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Thessaloniki
Dimethoate	Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Pireaus
Alpha-cypermethrin	Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Achaia

FVO RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), Directorate F of Health and Consumer General Directorate, EU carried out an audit in Greece from 2 to 9 May 2012 in order to evaluate controls of pesticides. Audit report DG(SANCO) 2012-6285 - MR FINAL resulted to 13 recommendations and an action plan was prepared.

The objectives of the audit were to evaluate the control systems in place for pesticides, in particular:

- the implementation of requirements for the authorization of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) and official controls on the marketing and use of PPPs under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Directive 2009/128/EC;
- the implementation of the requirements for official controls of PPPs at growers, as specified in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- follow-up recommendations of report Health and Consumers Directorate-General DG(SANCO)/2009-8162, which had focused on implementation of official controls on pesticide residues under Regulations (EC) No 396/2005 and No 882/2004.

PROCEDURES FOR PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES

A new training program for inspectors is designed for controls on marketing and use of PPPs. For this reason DPPP has contacted the Public Education Institute of the National Center for Public Administration. The

training program for national inspectors is an obligation specified in Law 4036. Due to lack of resources the beginning of the program was delayed and finally started in May 2013.

A new Presidential Decree was prepared for the performance and reporting of control activities. According to the new Presidential Decree controls are risk-based planned and sampling is currently recorded to a new electronic system in order to improve efficacy of the control system. The issue of the new Presidential Decree is delayed and is intended to take place up to July 2013.

The public service in Greece is currently under re-organization, which is not yet finalized. Due to this fact and the lack of resources there is not yet established an internal or external audit system. The plan is to establish a separate service-directorate for the whole MRDF, for the purpose of an integrated quality system.

Documented procedures containing sufficient information and instructions for staff to perform effective official controls are in place as required by relative FVO recommendation.

Pesticide sales are re-organized under the provisions of directive 2009/128/EC.

Specific procedure for the inspection requirements is in place for the provisions of article 28, par. 2c & 2d of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, regarding the production, storage or movement of a non-authorized plant protection product intended for use in another Member State, provided that the product is authorized in that Member State or use in a third country to ensure that the plant protection product is not used in Greece.

A Ministerial Decree was issued in 2012 regarding prohibition of advertisement of PPPs in television along with certain provisions for comparative advertisement. Specific instructions are issued for the controls on PPPs advertisement.

Manufacturers and repackaging facilities for PPPs are registered in the official registry of pesticide plants. Simplified registration procedure is issued and controls of manufacturers and repackaging facilities register is designated to RCPPQCs.

The CAs, under the coordination of CNA, perform controls on illegal or counterfeit pesticides. They cooperate with the CAs of other Member States, the European law enforcement agency, Europol, the financial police against fraud, the Customs, and the police traffic corps.

RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS FOR THE YEAR 2012

Controls on composition

The report on control measures on composition of plant protection products undertaken is the following:

Plant protection products containing the following active substances:	Control Laboratory	Number of samples analyzed
Abamectin	Benaki Laboratory	41
nicosulfuron	Benaki Laboratory	5
Nicosulfuron/mesotrione	Benaki Laboratory	4
imidacloprid	Benaki Laboratory	55
prochloraz	Benaki Laboratory	5
fluometuron	Benaki Laboratory	7
metamitron	Benaki Laboratory	3
Epoxiconazole/pyraclostrobin	Benaki Laboratory	1
lambda-cyhalothrin	Benaki Laboratory	15
azoxystrobin	Benaki Laboratory	20
Azoxystrobin/folpet	Benaki Laboratory	1
Alpha-cypermethrin	Benaki Laboratory	6

Dimethoate	Benaki Laboratory	1
Chlorpyrifos (EC formulation)	Thessaloniki Laboratory	119
Lambda-cyhalothrin (CS formulation)	Thessaloniki Laboratory	62
Dimethoate	Pireaus Laboratory	38
Alpha-cypermethrin	Achaia Laboratory	24

The infringements that found of the above analysis were:

Analyses	407
Infringements	3

	Analyses	Infringements
Identity of the active substance	407	0
Content of the active substance	407	3
Unacceptable physicochemical properties	407	3

Controls on labeling and packaging:

In year 2012 the control authorities conducted 213 controls on labeling and packaging of plant protection products in the market. No infringements were found

Control on sale

The report on control measures on sales undertaken is the following:

	TOTAL
Inspections	387
Infringements	56

	Infringements
Unauthorized product	26
Unauthorized selling	7
Inappropriate storage conditions	2
Other (Selling after expiry date)	21

Controls for unauthorized products (counterfeit, recalled authorizations etc)

In year 2012 the control authorities in cooperation with the central authority, customs, police etc conducted numerous controls in suspected facilities, vehicles, shipments and as a result 35 cases of unauthorized products were discovered. In all cases the responsible were taken to justice and in addition sanctions of 236,000 euros were imposed.

Controls at user level

In year 2012 the control authorities conducted 208 inspections at user level. The whole control system at user level is re-organized taking into regard the relevant recommendations of FVO audit in 2012, introducing a risk-based approach in these specific controls.

CONTROL PROGRAM OF YEAR 2013.

The control program for the year **2013** was issued with the Ministerial Decree num. 2101/22762/21-2-2013. According to the program, the following are planned:

- ✓ Intensification of the controls for non authorized plant protection products and for selling products after the expiry date
- ✓ Intensification of the controls for plant protection products of parallel trade.
- ✓ Sampling and comparative analysis of plant protection products of parallel trade by the Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute.
- ✓ Intensification of the controls of pesticide sales
- ✓ Inspections regarding labeling and composition according to the following table:

Plant protection products containing the following active substances:	Control Laboratory
Acetamiprid, 2,4D, captan, deltamethrin, fenoxycarb, fluazinam, cypermethrin, pendimethalin, phosmet & tebuconazole	Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute
Tebuconazole (WG, SC & EC formulations) & boscalid (WG & SC) Plant protection products containing only these active substances will be analyzed and not in mixtures with other active substances.	Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Thessaloniki
Dimethoate	Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Pireaus
Alpha-cypermethrin (EC formulation)	Laboratory of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control of Achaia