

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

Carried out in Greece during 2014

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



Coordinating National Authority:

***Hellenic Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy
(ex. 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 2014 in Greece under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

The control program was mainly affected by three different facts that happened in 2014:

- A. Implementation of Law 4036/2012 regarding 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. Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides
- C. A strong economic crisis affected also the pesticide controls system, by the means of lack of resources.

The control results are considered to be satisfactory.

LEGAL BASIS

Relevant EU Legislation

The legal basis is the 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 finalize 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 Government Gazette 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.

During 2014, law 4036/2012 was modified with law No 4235/2014 (Government Gazette A’32): *“Administrative measures, procedures and sanctions regarding the implementation of community and national legislation on food, feed and health and protection of animals and other provisions in the competency of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food”*. The modification was mainly in article 35 about pesticide sales and establishing an independent committee to examine appeals against decisions imposing fines for PPPs infringements

All implementing legislative actions are published in the Hellenic Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy website (<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/crop-production/fytoprostasiamenu/elenxoifitoprostateytikonmenu/523-nomo-elegxon>).

ORGANIZATION COMPETENCIES OF THE CONTROL AUTHORITIES

A. Central authority

The Directorate of Plant Produce Protection (DPPP) of the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy (MRPEE) (ex. Ministry of Rural Development and Food) 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, Directorate of Plant Produce Protection, Hellenic Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy.

B. Onsite inspections

Directorates of Rural Economy and Veterinary Medicine of the Regional Unities (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 in Greece.

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 in Athens.
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 Piraeus.
4. 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 Laboratory for Pesticides Chemical Control 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 Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy (MRPEE) (ex. Ministry of Rural Development and Food), who impose the administrative sanctions on behalf of the Minister (in 2015 the Minister himself signs the sanctions).

CONTROL PROGRAM OF 2014

The control program for the year **2014** was issued with the Ministerial Decree num. 1320/17878/7-2-2014, as modified with the Ministerial Decision 6873/72437/3-6-2014. According to the program, the following were planned:

- Market controls in order to verify provisions of article 28 of Regulation (EC) num 1107/2009 and especially:
 - a. Placing in the market of unauthorized products and especially those with foreign labels in cooperation with custom authorities.
 - b. Placing in the market of unauthorized products and especially those that the authorization had been revoked.
 - c. Placing in the market of unauthorized products and especially those that had granted emergency authorization for 120 days and the period of use had passed.
- Market controls of plant protection products granted parallel import permit. For these products:
 - a. Controls in wholesalers and retailers for products that their parallel import permit had been revoked in 2014. Special directions were given with the program.
 - b. Sampling of products holding a parallel import permit in force and comparative analysis of them with two batches of the relevant reference product to examine their similarity.
- Market controls of plant protection products sales and especially:
 - a. Unauthorized pesticide sales.
 - b. Controls of wholesalers and retailers for sale specifications. The choice and the number of wholesalers and retailers controlled should be defined according to risk based analysis (article 14, Presidential Decree 159/2013 (Government Gazette A 251).
- Controls on the label and content of the plant protection products conducted with sampling from official authorities and laboratory analysis according to the following table:

Plant protection products containing the following active substances:	Chemical Control Laboratory
Glyphosate, Chlorpyrifos, Chlorothalonil, Deltamethrin, Iprodione, Quinalofop-P-ethyl, Imidacloprid, Folpet, Abamectin, L-cyhalothrin, Alphacypermethrin	Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute
Tebuconazole (WG, SC & EW formulations), Pyraclostrobin (WG & EC formulations) & boscalid (WG formulations) 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

- Controls on PPPs advertisement and especially on the advertising material distributed in pesticide wholesalers and retailers.

- Controls on PPPs proper use conducted mainly by on-site controls of professional users and b) sampling of leaves and sprouts and laboratory analysis for PPPs residues revealing their use.
- Controls on PPPs electronic register of retailer sales on the specific official e-service.
- Controls on expired PPPs in retailers and professional users.
- Controls on the implementation of the general principles of integrated pest management defined in Annex D of law 4036/2012 and NAP.

PROCEDURES FOR PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES

In 2014, numerous procedures were issued regarding control activities.

All procedures are published in Ministry of Rural Development and Food website : <http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/crop-production/fytoprostasiamenu/elenxoifitoprostateytikonmenu/527-odigies-ele-arxes> in Greek language. A list of the national legislation regarding official controls on marketing and use of plant protection products in English language is also published in Ministry's official website: <http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/en/farmer-menu-2/plantprotection-menu/control-distr-useplantprotprod-menu/2438-officialcontrolsplantprot> .

In particular the following procedures were issued in 2014:

Imposing fines for ppps infringements – Right to appeal

Official doc	Number	Subject
Ministerial Decision	184/60871/ 9-5-2014	Designation of Committee members for appeals against decisions imposing fines according to par. 1, article 49a of law 4036/2012 (Official Gazette A'8), as amended by par. 8, article 44 of law 4235/2014 (Official Gazette A'32)
Ministerial Decision	11753/132494/ 20-10-2014	Determination of factor for administrative sanctions fines criteria of law 4036/2012 (Official Gazette A'8)
Ministerial Decision	377/135111/ 24-10-2014	Modification of num. 184/60871/9-05-2014 Ministerial Decision “ Designation of Committee members for appeals against decisions imposing fines according to par. 1, article 49a of law 4036/2012 (Official Gazette A'8), as amended by par. 8, article 44 of law 4235/2014 (Official Gazette A'32)”

Internal audit system and verification of the effectiveness of official controls

Official doc	Number	Subject
Common Ministerial Decision	11935/134642 24-10-2014	Establishment of necessary supplementary measures for the implementation of the Regulation (EC) num 882/2004, regarding the competent authorities and the procedure for the internal audit system and verification of the effectiveness of official controls on plant protection products and pesticides residues.
Ministerial Decision	402/147651/ 21-11-2014	Designation of the members of the Internal Audit Committee of article 5 of the num. 11935/134642/24-10-2014 Common Ministerial Decision.

Official controls on pesticide residues

Official doc	Number	Subject
Circular	6875/72447/ 3-6-2014	Procedures regarding official controls on pesticide residues

National Action Plan on sustainable use of plant protection products

Official doc	Number	Subject
Circular	208/2687/ 9-1-2014	Granting the certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides
Circular	2967/33905/ 13-3-2014	Information to public for pesticides and management of cases of poisoned baits with plant protection products.
Circular	5919/62354/ 13-5-2014	Best Working Practices for Pesticide Use

Official controls on pesticide sales

Official doc	Number	Subject
Circular	4016/41125/ 28-3-2014	Procedure for the pesticide sales operation start announcement and functioning pesticide sales shops
Circular	6876/72454/ 3-6-2014	Procedures of official controls on pesticide sales
Circular	11455/128531/ 14-10-2014	Pesticide sales (Extension of selling pesticides for retailers already selling pesticides when law 4036/2012 entered in force)

Prescription for the use of pesticides – Electronic register of pesticide sales in retailer level

Official doc	Number	Subject
Circular	5103/51643/ 17-4-2014	Procedure of official control on for the electronic register of pesticide sales in retailer level
Ministerial Decision	9497/104760/ 20-8-2014	Prescription for the use of pesticides

Classification and Labeling

Official doc	Number	Subject
Ministerial Decision	3457/37823/ 20-3-2014	Obligatory precautionary statements on plant protection products labels
Circular	9223/101253/ 6-8-2014	Instructions for the classification and labeling of plant protection products

Plant protection products fees

Official doc	Number	Subject
Common Ministerial Decision	10775/120593/ 26-9-2014	Settings for fees of article 6, Law 4036/2012 (Official Gazette A'8)

RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS FOR THE YEAR 2014**A. Unauthorized products importation**

During 2014 the following cases were established mostly after close cooperation with the customs authorities, followed by sanctions, issued by the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy (MRPEE) (ex. Ministry of Rural Development and Food):

Sanctions decision	Active substance	Description	Origin	Quantity (kgs or lts)
1254/16725/7-4-2014	Glyphosate	"ROUNDUP STAR"	Turkey	1 x 1 lt
6214/65787/3-6-2014	pinoxaden & clonquintocet – mexyl	"Акснап 050 EK"	Bulgaria	14 x 5 lts
	tribenuron methyl	"Grandslam DF"	Turkey	44 x 50 gr
6931/72979/6-8-2014	pendimethalin	"STOMP 330 E"	Turkey	2 x 5 lt
	Folpet & triadimenol	"SHAVIT F 71,5 WP"	Turkey	1 x 400 gr
8082/87529/19-8-2014	deltamethrin	"BELAIR"	Turkey	40 x 1 lt
	pendimethalin	"RECLAME"	Turkey	60 x 1 lt
	paraquat	"CIRCALA"	Turkey	80 x 1 lt
	abamectin	"MASSMECTIN"	Turkey	80 x 1 lt
	Lambda-cyhalothrin 50 g/l	"REDSUNNY"	Turkey	20 x 1 lt
8720/95656/12-9-2014	Quizalofop-p-ethyl	"TOKTA SUPER"	Turkey	6 x 1 lt
9129/100170/29-9-2014	chlorothalonil, propiconazole and cyproconazole	"CHEROKEE"	Turkey	44 x 1 lt
	acetamiprid	"PASCAL"	Turkey	12 x 1 kg
	acetamiprid	"EFFORE"	Turkey	88 x 1 kg
	Bensulfuron Methyl	"CRAX"	Turkey	40 x 60 gr
	Trifloxysulfuron-sodium	"ENVOKE"	Turkey	1 x 100 gr
6157/72436/29-6-2015	magnesium chlorate		Turkey	8 x 20 kg

B. Use of unauthorized products

The following cases of use of unauthorized products were detected in 2014, after residue analysis:

Active substances	Number of cases
4-cpa	2
Carbaryl	3
Dieldrin	5
Diphenylamine	3
Endosulfan	1
Fenthion	2
Malathion	2
Methidathion	1
Propargite	4
Thidiazuron	6
TOTAL	27

C. Controls on composition

In 2013, a **total number of 400 (+1) samples** were analyzed for the needs of the official controls on plant protection products and **3 (+1) infringements were detected**.

The samples include authorized plant protection products, plant protection products for which a parallel trade permit has been granted, plant protection products suspect for phytotoxicity, non authorized plant protection products, soil sample and also plant samples for the determination of heavy metals.

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

- A. Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the **Benaki Phytopathological Institute**
During 2014, 364 samples were analyzed in the laboratory for the determination of 70 different active substances as well as 11 metals (Cd, Zn, Cr, Pb, Hg, As, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mg)

TABLE I Samples per control scope

Control Scope	Number of samples
2014 Annual program for market control	244
PPPs used for the 2014 National program for olive protection against <i>Bactrocera oleae</i>	44
Claims	34
State procurements for biocides	1
Suicide	1
Non authorized PPPs	8
PPPs for which a parallel trade permit has been granted	4
Soil samples	16
Plant samples for the determination of heavy metals	3
Second analysis (appealing first analysis results)	9
TOTAL	364

TABLE II: Analysis of the samples of 2014 annual program for market control

Active substance (s)	Number of samples	Infringements
Glyphosate	42	0
Chlorpyrifos	31	0
Chlorothalonil / cymoxanil	1	0
Chlorothalonil / metalaxyl-M	1	0
Deltamethrin	38	0
Iprodione	11	0
Quizalofop-p-ethyl	10	0
Imidacloprid	29	1

Folpet	5	0
Abamectin	30	0
Lambda cyhalothrin	26	2
Alpha cypermethrin	18	0
Dimethoate*	1	0
Boscalid & Pyraclostrobin*	1	0
TOTAL	244	3

- Samples of alpha cypermethrin and dimethoate were analyzed due to technical problem to other laboratories.

Infringements description

- The imidacloprid formulation was detected with sediment and lower concentration in active substance.
- The lambda cyhalothrin 10CS formulations were parallel trade products and found to be different for the relevant reference products regarding the behavior of the capsules.
- In addition after an analysis of a carboxin and thiram FS formulation (seed coating) was investigated and was detected not having the authorized red color.

- B. Laboratories of Plant Protection Products Quality Control of the Regional Center for Plant Protection and Quality Control (PPPQC-RCPP & QC lab)

Laboratory	Active substance (s)	Number of samples	Infringements
Laboratory of PPPQC-RCPP & QC of Thessaloniki	Tebuconazole & boscalid Pyraclostrobin	21	0
Laboratory of PPPQC-RCPP & QC of Piraeus	Dimethoate	15	0
TOTAL		36	0

D. Official controls on labeling and packaging of plant protection products:

In year 2014, the official controls on labeling and packaging of plant protection products in the market were conducted by the comparison of labels on pesticide sales shops with the relevant authorizations. The results are presented below:

Total number of controls	Infringements
358	3 cases investigated 1 sanction case (batch number missing)

Official controls on sales of plant protection products:

In year 2014, the official controls on sales of plant protection products are presented below:

Official controls	Total numbers
Inspections	847
Cases investigated	155
Infringements	129

Infringement	Number per infringement type
Unauthorized products (recalled or without authorization)	5
Unauthorized selling	14
Inappropriate storage conditions	6
Absence of trained personnel	2
Sales of PPPs after expiry date	15
E-register of PPPs retailer sales	87

E. Official controls on plant protection products advertisement

In year 2014, the official controls on plant protection products advertisement are presented below:

Total number of controls	Infringements
112	9 cases investigated 2 sanction cases (unauthorized products)

F. Official controls at user level

In year 2014, the official controls regarding the proper use of plant protection products at user level were conducted by the following ways:

- 1) On site controls of professional users and, where required, sampling of soil, leaves or spray solution
- 2) Sampling of harvested fruits and vegetables and residue analysis.

Type of control on professional user of plant protection products	Total number
On site controls	942
Sampling and residue analysis	2243
TOTAL	3185

The results of the official controls regarding the proper use of plant protection products at user level are presented below:

Infringement type	Total number
Improper use of authorized plant protection product	159
Use of unauthorized plant protection product	27
TOTAL	186

G. Official controls on sustainable use of plant protection products

In 2014, the official controls on sustainable use of plant protection products and especially for the provisions of article 12 of Directive 2009/128/EC detected 9 infringements.

CONTROL PROGRAM OF YEAR 2015.

The control program for the year **2015** was issued with the Ministerial Decree num. 528/7139/21-1-2015. According to the program, the following are planned:

- Market controls in order to verify provisions of article 28 of Regulation (EC) num 1107/2009 and especially:
 - a. Placing in the market of unauthorized products and especially those with foreign labels in cooperation with custom authorities.
 - b. Placing in the market of unauthorized products and especially those that the authorization had been revoked.
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 - c. Controls in wholesalers and retailers for products that their parallel import permit had been revoked in 2013. Special directions were given with the program.
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- Controls on the label and content of the plant protection products conducted with sampling from official authorities and laboratory analysis according to the following table:

Plant protection products containing the following active substances:	Chemical Control Laboratory
Propamocarb, Metamitron, Diquat, Cymoxanil, Chlorantraniliprole, Propyzamide, Esfenvalerate, Propiconazole, Ethofenprox, Chlorothalonil, Paraffin oil (CAS 64742-46-7, 8042-47-5, 97862-82-3) & Triadimenol	Laboratory of Physicochemical analysis of pesticides of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute
Tebuconazole (WG, SC & EW formulations), Pendimethalin (EC formulations), Boscalid & Pyraclostrobin. 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
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- Controls on PPPs electronic register of retailer sales on the specific official e-service.
- Controls on expired PPPs in retailers and professional users.
- Controls on the implementation of the general principles of integrated pest management defined in Annex D of law 4036/2012 and NAP.