



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E – Safety of the food chain
Unit E.3 - Chemicals, contaminants, pesticides

Ethylene
SANCO/2608/08 – rev. 1
01 August 2008

FINAL

Review report for the active substance **ethylene**

Finalised in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health at its meeting on
28 October 2008
in view of the inclusion of ethylene in Annex I of Directive 91/414/EEC

1. Procedure followed for the re-evaluation process

This review report has been established as a result of the re-evaluation of ethylene, made in the context of the work programme for review of existing active substances provided for in Article 8(2) of Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, with a view to the possible inclusion of this substance in Annex I to the Directive.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1112/2002⁽¹⁾ laying down the detailed rules for the implementation of the fourth stage of the programme of work referred to in Article 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC, and Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004⁽²⁾ have laid down the detailed rules on the procedure according to which the re-evaluation has to be carried out. Ethylene is one of the existing active substances covered by this Regulation.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4 in Regulation (EC) No 1112/2002, BRM Agencies and Coleacp notified to the Commission of their wish to secure the inclusion of the active substance ethylene in Annex I to the Directive.

In Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004 the Commission, designated the United Kingdom as rapporteur Member State to carry out the assessment of ethylene on the basis of the dossiers submitted by the notifiers. In Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004 the Commission specified furthermore that the deadline for the notifiers with regard to the submission to the rapporteur Member States of the dossiers required, as well as for other parties with regard to further technical and scientific information was 30 June 2005.

The EU Ethylene Task Force, consisting of Coleacp, Restrain Company Ltd., Air Liquide, Air Products SA/NV, Linde Ag, Praxair Espana SL and Westfalen, submitted by the deadline a

¹ OJ No L 168, 27.06.2002, p.14.

² OJ No L 379, 24.12.2004, p.13. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1095/2007 (OJ L 246, 21.09.2007, p. 19).

dossier to the rapporteur Member State which did not contain substantial data gaps, taking into account the supported uses. Therefore the EU Ethylene Task Force was considered to be the sole data submitter.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 21(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004, the United Kingdom submitted in January 2008 to the EFSA the report of their examination, hereafter referred to as the draft assessment report, including, as required, a recommendation concerning the possible inclusion of ethylene in Annex I to the Directive.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004 as last amended by Regulation (EC) 1095/2007, the EFSA organised the consultation on the draft assessment report by all the Member States as well as by the EU Ethylene Task Force being the sole data submitter, on 14 July 2008 by making it available.

On the basis of the provisions of Article 24a of Regulation 2229/2004 as last amended by Regulation (EC) 1095/2007 the Commission examined the draft assessment report, the recommendations by the rapporteur Member State and the comments received from other Member States in consultation with experts from a certain number of Member States.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 24b and Article 25 (1) a of Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004 as last amended by Regulation (EC) 1095/2007, the Commission referred on 28 October 2008 a draft review report to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, for final examination. The draft review report was finalised in the meeting of the Standing Committee on 28 October 2008.

The present review report contains the conclusions of the final examination by the Standing Committee.

2. Purposes of this review report

This review report, including the background document appendices thereto, has been developed in support of the Directive **2008/127/EC**³ concerning the inclusion of ethylene in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC. The Commission shall request the EFSA to deliver its view on the draft review reports by 31 December 2010 at the latest. When the Member States decide on individual plant protection products containing ethylene they shall take into account this review report in accordance with the provisions of that Directive, and in particular the provisions of article 4(1) and the uniform principles laid down in Annex VI. However, when the EFSA has delivered its view on the draft review report, the Commission shall revise it.

This review report provides also for the evaluation required under Section A.2.(b) of the above mentioned uniform principles, as well as under several specific sections of part B of these principles. In these sections it is provided that Member States, in evaluating applications and granting authorisations, shall take into account the information concerning the active substance in Annex II of the directive, submitted for the purpose of inclusion of the active substance in Annex I, as well as the result of the evaluation of those data.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004, Member States will keep available or make available this review report for consultation by any interested parties or will make it available to them on their specific request.

³ Commission Directive 2008/127/EC (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 89)

The information in this review report is, at least partly, based on information which is confidential and/or protected under the provisions of Directive 91/414/EEC. It is therefore recommended that this review report would not be accepted to support any registration outside the context of Directive 91/414/EEC, e.g. in third countries, for which the applicant has not demonstrated to have regulatory access to the information on which this review report is based.

3. Overall conclusion in the context of Directive 91/414/EEC

The overall conclusion from the draft assessment report, the recommendations by the rapporteur Member State and the result of the examination in accordance with the provisions of Article 24a of Regulation 2229/2004 is that there are clear indications that it may be expected that ethylene does not have any harmful effects on human or animal health or on groundwater or any unacceptable influence on the environment, as set out in Annex VI of regulation (EC) 2229/2004 as last amended by Regulation (EC) 1095/2007.

These indications are however subject to compliance with the particular requirements in sections 4 and 5 of this report, as well as to the implementation of the provisions of Article 4(1) and the uniform principles laid down in Annex VI of Directive 91/414/EEC, for each ethylene containing plant protection product for which Member States will grant or review the authorisation.

Furthermore, these indications were reached within the framework of the uses which were proposed and supported by the main data submitter and mentioned in the list of uses supported by available data (attached as Appendix II to this review report).

Extension of the use pattern beyond those described above will require an evaluation at Member State level in order to establish whether the proposed extensions of use can satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) and of the uniform principles laid down in Annex VI of Directive 91/414/EEC.

The review has concluded that there are acceptable exposure scenarios for consumers, operators, workers and bystanders which require however to be confirmed for each plant protection products in accordance with the relevant sections of the above-mentioned uniform principles.

It has also been concluded that under the proposed and supported conditions of use there are no unacceptable effects on the environment, as provided for in Article 4 (1) (b) (iv) and (v) of Directive 91/414/EEC, provided that certain conditions are taken into account as detailed in section 6 of this report.

4. Identity and biological properties

The main properties of ethylene are given in Appendix I.

It has been established that for the active substance notified by the main data submitter none of the manufacturing impurities considered are, on the basis of information currently available, of toxicological or environmental concern.

5. Endpoints and related information

In order to facilitate Member States, in granting or reviewing authorisations, to apply adequately the provisions of Article 4(1) of Directive 91/414/EEC and the uniform principles laid down in Annex VI of that Directive, the most important endpoints were identified during the re-evaluation process. These endpoints are listed in volume 1, page 39. The EFSA will deliver its view on this review report by 31 December 2010 at the latest.

6. Particular conditions to be taken into account on short term basis by Member States in relation to the granting of authorisations of plant protection products containing ethylene

On the basis of the proposed and supported uses (as listed in Appendix II), no particular issues have been identified as requiring particular and short term attention from all Member States, in the framework of any authorisations to be granted, varied or withdrawn.

7. List of studies to be generated

Further studies which were at this stage considered necessary were identified in the level 4 of the Draft Assessment Report.

8. Information on studies with claimed data protection

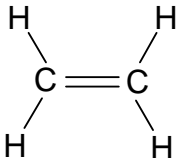
For information of any interested parties, the rapporteur Member State will keep available a document which gives information about the studies for which the main data submitter has claimed data protection and which during the re-evaluation process were considered as essential with a view to annex I inclusion. This information is only given to facilitate the operation of the provisions of Article 13 of Directive 91/414/EEC in the Member States. It is based on the best information available but it does not prejudice any rights or obligations of Member States or operators with regard to its uses in the implementation of the provisions of Article 13 of the Directive 91/414/EEC and neither does it commit the Commission.

9. Updating of this review report

The information in this report may require to be updated from time to time in order to take account of technical and scientific developments as well as of the results of the examination of any information referred to the Commission in the framework of Articles 7, 10 or 11 of Directive 91/414/EEC. Any such adaptation will be finalised in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, in connection with any amendment of the inclusion conditions for ethylene in Annex I of the Directive.

APPENDIX I**Identity; physical and chemical properties**

ETHYLENE

Common name (ISO)	Ethylene
Chemical name (IUPAC)	Ethene
Chemical name (CA)	Ethylene
CIPAC No	Not Available
CAS No	74-85-1
EEC No	200-815-3
FAO SPECIFICATION	
Minimum purity	99% for the ethylene formulated and supplied in cylinders. Ethylene formed from catalytic action on ethanol is not considered a technical material.
Molecular formula	C ₂ H ₄
Molecular mass	28.05 g/mol
Structural formula	

APPENDIX II

List of uses supported by available data

ETHYLENE

Crop and/or situation (a)	Member State or Country	Product name	F G or I (b)	Pests or Group of pests controlled (c)	Formulation		Application				Application rate per treatment			PHI (days) (l)	Remarks: (m)
					Type (d-f)	Conc. of as (i)	method kind (f-h)	growth stage & season (j)	number min max (k)	interval between applications (min)	kg as/hl min max	water l/ha min max	kg as/ha min max		
Bananas	Northern and Southern EU	Ethylene Gas	I	Degreening/ Ripening on bananas (Plant Growth Regulator)	Gas (GA)	≥ 6%	Gassing	Post harvest	One per stored batch of bananas	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6 – 1.0 L/m ³	N/A	Equivalent to an application rate of 600 – 1000 ppm
Potatoes	Northern and Southern EU	Ethylene Gas	I	Sprout suppressant (Plant growth regulator)	Gas (GA)	≥ 6%	Gassing	Post harvest	One per stored batch of potatoes	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01 L/m ³	N/A	Equivalent to an application rate of 10 ppm

- Remarks:**
- (a) For crops, the EU and Codex classifications (both) should be used; where relevant, the use situation should be described (*e.g.* fumigation of a structure)
 - (b) Outdoor or field use (F), glasshouse application (G) or indoor application (I)
 - (c) *e.g.* biting and suckling insects, soil born insects, foliar fungi, weeds
 - (d) *e.g.* wettable powder (WP), emulsifiable concentrate (EC), granule (GR)
 - (e) GCPF Codes - GIFAP Technical Monograph No 2, 1989
 - (f) All abbreviations used must be explained
 - (g) Method, *e.g.* high volume spraying, low volume spraying, spreading, dusting, drench
 - (h) Kind, *e.g.* overall, broadcast, aerial spraying, row, individual plant, between the plants - type of equipment used must be indicated
 - (i) g/kg or g/l
 - (j) Growth stage at last treatment (BBCH Monograph, Growth Stages of Plants, 1997, Blackwell, ISBN 3-8263-3152-4), including where relevant, information on season at time of application
 - (k) The minimum and maximum number of application possible under practical conditions of use must be provided
 - (l) PHI - minimum pre-harvest interval
 - (m) Remarks may include: Extent of use/economic importance/restrictions