



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

November 3, 2008

Ms. Linda Adams, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Kim Belshe, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency

Mr. A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Dear Secretaries:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), began the light brown apple moth (LBAM) eradication program in September 2007, with the aerial spraying of two pheromone products (Checkmate OLR-F and Checkmate LBAM-F) in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. After the spraying occurred, a number of symptoms were reported from people in these areas. In response to these symptom reports, staff from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and the Department of Public Health (DPH) completed an evaluation of the available health and safety data related to these pheromone products, in addition to a summary of the symptoms reported. These reports concluded that toxicology and exposure information indicated low potential for acute adverse health effects, and not enough information was available to determine if there was or was not a link between the symptoms and the pheromone applications. The possibility that some of the symptoms were caused by the application could not be ruled out.

In the next phase of safety evaluation for the LBAM eradication program, staff from DPR, OEHHA, and DPH reviewed and analyzed the results of a series of acute toxicity studies on four potential LBAM eradication products, including Checkmate LBAM-F, as well as the LBAM pheromone active ingredient. The attached document represents an agreement among DPR, OEHHA, and DPH on the interpretation of acute toxicity studies results on the LBAM pheromone active ingredient and four LBAM pheromone-containing products.

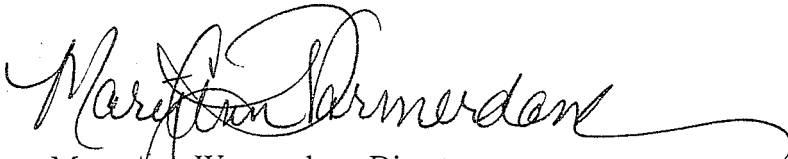


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In summary, the testing indicates low acute toxicity to individuals who could have been exposed by ingesting, breathing, or getting the product on their skin. However, due to the positive results of one of two dermal sensitization assays on the products, we cannot dismiss the possibility that in sensitive individuals, contact with the particles could cause allergic-type responses, though the negative results of the other dermal sensitization assay do not provide a compelling argument for such a link. We find the results of the acute toxicity studies (1) support our previous conclusion that we cannot definitively determine whether or not there is a link between the reported symptoms and the Checkmate applications; and (2) support our recommendation for enhancing the systems for symptoms reporting.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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Mark Horton, M.D., Director
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Attachment

cc: Mr. Chris Reardon, DPR Chief Deputy Director
Mr. Allan Hirsch, OEHHA Chief Deputy Director
Dr. Bonita Sorensen, DPH Chief Deputy Director of Policy and Programs