



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

## International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management

# Guidance on pesticide licensing schemes





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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
World Health Organization  
Rome, 2021

Required citation:

FAO and WHO. 2021. *Guidance on pesticide licensing schemes – International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6104en>

This publication was developed in the context of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The IOMC was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen cooperation and increase international coordination in the field of chemical safety. The participating organizations are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote coordination of the policies and activities pursued by the participating organizations, jointly or separately, to achieve sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

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ISBN [FAO] 978-92-5-134797-3

ISBN [WHO] 978-92-4-003042-8 (electronic version)

ISBN [WHO] 978-92-4-003043-5 (print version)

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## Foreword

This document is intended to provide guidance for designing and implementing national pesticide licensing schemes by outlining elements, requirements and options for countries wishing to establish or strengthen their programmes for licensing of activities related to the pesticide life cycle. The guidance is designed primarily for use by government authorities in charge of pesticide management, in particular pesticide regulations, compliance, enforcement and risk reduction, but may also be useful in sectors such as the pesticide industry, nongovernmental organizations and other relevant entities.

This guidance was prepared in compliance with the **International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**, which sets out a framework and voluntary standards of conduct for pesticide management stakeholders, in particular governments and the pesticide industry. Endorsed by FAO, WHO, governments, pesticide producers, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, the Code of Conduct outlines their shared responsibility to promote best practice and risk reduction throughout the pesticide life cycle. The Code of Conduct thereby establishes the commitment and moral obligation of the stakeholders to comply with the agreed standards of conduct and to assume their respective responsibilities. This includes governments' responsibility to promote pesticide risk reduction and industry's responsibility to produce products that are adapted to the context of their use and to provide stewardship of those products throughout their life cycle.

### **FAO and WHO welcome readers' feedback**

FAO and WHO consider this guidance to be a living document, which could be improved. They would therefore value any feedback from readers and welcome comments. They would also value examples of how the guidance is used.

Please send your suggestions, comments and examples to [pesticide-management@fao.org](mailto:pesticide-management@fao.org), indicating the title of the guidance and the relevant section and page.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
HHP	highly hazardous pesticide
ILO	International Labour Organization
JMPM	FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management
LMIC	low- and middle-income countries
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
PIC	Prior Informed Consent (Rotterdam Convention)
PCO	pest control operator
POPs	persistent organic pollutants
PPE	personal protective equipment
RUP	restricted-use pesticide (USA)
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WHO	World Health Organization

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