



World Health
Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management

Guidance on management of household pesticides



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household pesticides**

World Health Organization
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The Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN 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 (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are observers. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote coordination of the policies and activities pursued by the participating organizations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

This publication was developed in the IOMC context. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or stated policies of individual IOMC participating organizations.

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Foreword

This guidance is intended to help government authorities reduce the risks associated with the use of household pesticides – i.e. pest control products used in domestic settings – by non-professionals. The guidance focuses on strengthening the regulation and oversight of household pesticides and on educating the general public about effective pest and pesticide management in and around the home. The guidance is designed primarily for use by government authorities in charge of pesticide management and risk reduction but may also be useful to the pesticide industry and nongovernmental organizations.

The guidance adopts the FAO/WHO tiered approach in pesticide risk reduction outlined in the *FAO Guidance on pest and pesticide management policy development* (FAO, 2010). The approach comprises three main steps:

1. Reduce reliance on pesticides. Determine to what extent current levels of pesticide use are actually needed. Make optimum use of non-chemical pest management and eliminate unjustified pesticide use.
2. Select pesticides with the lowest risk. If use of pesticides is deemed necessary, select products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment from the available registered products that are effective against the pest or disease.
3. Ensure proper use of the selected products for approved applications and in compliance with international standards.

The guidance begins with steps 2 and 3, as it is intended to focus primarily on pesticide (and not pest) management. However, governments are encouraged to give high priority to step 1, addressed in the last section of the guidance – **reduce reliance on pesticides by preventing pest outbreaks**. This is where pest control should begin.

This guidance was prepared with the support of the [FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management](#) (JMPPM), which advises the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in producing guidance to promote compliance with the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. The document was peer reviewed by experts of the Working Groups on Biocides and Pesticides of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

The internationally recognized “Code of Conduct” sets out a framework and voluntary standards of conduct for stakeholders in pesticide management, in particular governments and the pesticide industry. Endorsed by FAO, WHO, governments, pesticide producers, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, the Code of Conduct emphasizes these stakeholders’ shared responsibility in promoting 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 for those products throughout their life cycle.

FAO and WHO welcome readers' feedback

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

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

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