**WTO notifications:**

Commission drafts: Amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 about the conditions of approval of the active substances clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam.

This draft provides that the conditions of approval of the active substances clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam are amended. Existing authorisations for plant protection products containing clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam will be amended or withdrawn from the market. The amendment is based on the evaluation of confirmatory information submitted following the amendment of the conditions of approval of clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam (Regulation (EU) No 485/2013). This decision concerns the placing on the market of this substance and does not affect the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for residues of the concerned pesticides. The following reasons are provided:

During the evaluation of the confirmatory data on imidacloprid, provided following the amendment of its conditions of approval (Regulation (EU) No 485/2013), high acute risks for bees were identified for most crops from plant protection products containing the active substances clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam. In particular, high risks were identified for bees for several field uses *via* dust exposure. For bees foraging in the treated crop a high risk was identified for the use on potatoes and winter cereals. Also, a high risk to bees was identified in the succeeding crops for almost all field uses. To ensure the protection of bees, it is necessary to amend the approval conditions to include a further restriction of use. The use of clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam, including seed treatments, should be limited to permanent greenhouses where the crop stays its entire life cycle within the greenhouse and is thus not replanted outside.

Existing authorisations will need to be amended or withdrawn; Member States must amend or withdraw existing authorisations for plant protection products containing clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam at the latest by 3 months from the date of entry into force. A period of grace in line with Article 46 of Regulation 1107/2009 is allowed for and shall expire at the latest 6 months from the entry into force.

**Final date for comments:** 03 October 2017

**Proposed date of adoption**: 4th quarter 2017

**Proposed date of entry into force**: 20 days following publication in the OJ

**References:**

WTO G/TBT/N/EU/497 – Clothianidin
https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?Language=E&CatalogueIdList=238047,238048,238049,238046,238034,238037,238035,238022,238023,238002&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=371857150

WTO G/TBT/N/EU/498 – Imidacloprid

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=238047,238048,238049,238046,238034,238037,238035,238022,238023,238002&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=1&FullTextHash=371857150&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=False&HasSpanishRecord=False

WTO G/TBT/N/EU/499 – Thiamethoxam

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=238047,238048,238049,238046,238034,238037,238035,238022,238023,238002&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=2&FullTextHash=371857150&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=False&HasSpanishRecord=False