Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1379 of 25 July 2017 renewing the approval of difenacoum as an active substance for use in biocidal products of product-type 14 (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2017/1379

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(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products[(1)], and in particular Article 14(4)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The active substance difenacoum is approved for use in biocidal products of product-type 14 as a rodenticide under Regulation (EU) No 528/2012.

(2) In accordance with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, an application was submitted to the European Chemicals Agency ('the Agency') for the renewal of the approval of that active substance. This application was evaluated by the competent authority of Finland as the evaluating competent authority.

(3) On 24 March 2016, the evaluating competent authority submitted its recommendation on the renewal of the approval of difenacoum to the Agency.

(4) On 16 June 2016, the opinion of the Agency was formulated by its Biocidal Products Committee[(2)], having regard to the conclusions of the evaluating competent authority.

(5) According to that opinion, difenacoum meets the criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(3)] to be classified as toxic for reproduction category 1B. The substance also meets the criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(4)] for being very persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic. Difenacoum therefore meets the exclusion criteria set in points (c) and (e) of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012.

(6) In addition, the use of products containing difenacoum raises concerns in relation to instances of primary and secondary poisoning, even where restrictive risk management measures are applied and therefore difenacoum also satisfies the criterion to be a candidate for substitution in accordance with Article 10(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012.

(7) Pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, the approval of active substances meeting the exclusion criteria may only be renewed when at least one of the conditions for derogation set out in Article 5(2) of that Regulation continues to be satisfied.

(8) In accordance with Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, the Agency organised a public consultation in order to collect relevant information on difenacoum, including information on available substitutes.

(9) The Commission also carried out a specific public consultation in order to gather information as to whether the conditions for derogation set out in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 were satisfied. The Commission made the contributions to that consultation publicly available.

(10) The contributions to the two abovementioned public consultations, as well as the information regarding the availability of alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides included in Annex 1 to the Commission report on risk-mitigation measures for anticoagulant rodenticides[(5)], were discussed with Member States in the Standing Committee on Biocidal Products.

(11) Rodents can carry pathogens that are responsible for many zoonoses, which can pose serious dangers for human or animal health. Non-chemical controls or prevention methods for rodent control, such as mechanical, electrical or glue traps, may not be sufficiently efficient and may raise further questions as to whether they are humane or whether they cause unnecessary suffering to rodents. Alternative active substances approved for use as rodenticides may not be suitable for all user categories or efficient for all rodent species. As effective rodent control cannot rely on those non-chemical controls or prevention methods only, difenacoum is considered essential to ensure appropriate rodent control in support of those alternatives. As a consequence the use of difenacoum would be to prevent or control a serious danger to human and animal health in which rodents are involved. Therefore, the condition set out in Article 5(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 is satisfied.

(12) Rodent control currently relies largely on the use of anticoagulant rodenticides, the non-approval of which could lead to insufficient rodent control. This may not only cause significant negative impacts on human or animal health or the environment, but also affect the public's perception of its safety with regard to exposure to rodents or the security of a number of economic activities that could be vulnerable to rodents, resulting in economic and social consequences. On the other hand, the risks to human health, animal health or the environment arising from use of products containing difenacoum can be mitigated if they are used according to certain specifications and conditions. Therefore, the non-approval of difenacoum as an active substance would have a disproportionate negative impact on society in comparison to the risks arising from the use of the substance. The condition set out in Article 5(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 is thus also satisfied.

(13) It is therefore appropriate to renew the approval of difenacoum for use in biocidal products of product-type 14, subject to compliance with certain specifications and conditions.

(14) Difenacoum is a candidate for substitution in accordance with points (a) and (e) of Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 and therefore the period of renewal set out in Article 10(4) of that Regulation should apply.

(15) By Commission Implementing Decision 2014/397/EU[(6)], the initial expiry date of approval of difethialone and difenacoum for use in biocidal products of product-type 14 was postponed to 30 June 2018. As the examination of the applications for the renewal of those approvals is now finalised, it is appropriate to repeal Implementing Decision 2014/397/EU.

(16) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Biocidal Products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The approval of difenacoum as an active substance for use in biocidal products of product-type 14 is renewed, subject to the specifications and conditions set out in the Annex.

Article 2

Implementing Decision 2014/397/EU is repealed.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 25 July 2017.

For the Commission

The President

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1379. (See end of Document for details)*

ANNEX

Common Name	IUPAC NameIdentification Numbers	Minimum degree of purity of the active substance[a]	Expiry date of approval	Product type	Specific conditions
Difenacoum	IUPAC Name: 3-(3-biphenyl-4-yl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl)-4-hydroxycoumarin EC No: 259-978-4 CAS No: 56073-07-5	960g/kg Sum of isomers in a ratio of 50 %-80 % cis and 20 %-50 % trans isomers	30 June 2024	14	Difenacoum is considered a candidate for substitution in accordance with points (a) and (e) of Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012. The authorisations of biocidal products are subject to the following general conditions: (1) The product assessment shall pay particular attention to the exposures, the risks and the efficacy linked to any uses covered by

a The purity indicated in this column was the minimum degree of purity of the active substance evaluated. The active substance in the product placed on the market can be of equal or different purity if it has been proven to be technically equivalent to the evaluated active substance.

						an application for authorisation, but not addressed in the Union-level risk assessment of the active substance. In addition, pursuant to point 10 of Annex VI to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, the product assessment shall include an evaluation as to whether the conditions of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 can be satisfied.
					(2)	Products shall

a The purity indicated in this column was the minimum degree of purity of the active substance evaluated. The active substance in the product placed on the market can be of equal or different purity if it has been proven to be technically equivalent to the evaluated active substance.