



# GUIDELINES FOR PROCURING PUBLIC HEALTH PESTICIDES



# Guidelines for procuring public health pesticides

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## DEFINITIONS

- *Active ingredient.* Biologically active part of a pesticide formulation
- *Analytical portion.* Portion of a suitably prepared, appropriately homogenized laboratory sample to be analysed or tested; also known as a *test portion*
- *Batch.* Identifiable quantity of an active ingredient or formulation that has been manufactured, processed and stored under conditions presumed to be uniform
- *Bulk sample.* Combined total of primary samples taken from a batch
- *Consignment.* Quantity of one or more materials delivered at one time. A consignment of pesticides may consist of one or more batches or parts of batches.
- *Dangerous co-formulant.* Any substance present in a pesticide product at a concentration that triggers classification of the formulation
- *Equivalence.* Determination of the similarity of the impurity and toxicological profile and physical and chemical properties of supposedly similar technical material originating from different manufacturers; used to assess whether they present similar levels of risk
- *Formulation.* The combination of active ingredient(s) and formulants intended to facilitate application of a pesticide and make it effective for the purpose claimed
- *Indoor residual spraying.* Spraying of the interior walls of dwellings with an insecticide to kill mosquitoes that spread malaria
- *Inspector (sampling officer).* Person who has been properly trained in reliable, safe sampling and who is authorized by the responsible authority to examine pesticides and take samples for controlling their quality and packing
- *Insecticide-treated net.* Mosquito net that repels, disables or kills mosquitoes that come into contact with the insecticide on the netting material. There are two categories: conventionally treated and long-lasting insecticidal nets:
  - *Conventionally treated net.* A mosquito net that has been treated by dipping it in a WHO-recommended insecticide. To ensure its continued insecticidal effect, the net should be re-treated after three washes, or at least once a year.
  - *Long-lasting insecticidal net.* A factory-treated mosquito net made of netting material with insecticide incorporated within or bound around the fibres. The net must retain its effective biological activity without re-treatment for at least 20 WHO standard washes under laboratory conditions and 3 years of recommended use under field conditions.

- *Label*. Written or graphic information on or attached to the immediate container of the pesticide and its external packaging, if any
- *Laboratory sample*. The portion of material obtained by the specified sampling procedure, which is sent to a laboratory for testing
- *Obsolete pesticides*. Stocked pesticides that can no longer be used for their intended purpose or any other purpose and must therefore be disposed of
- *Packing*. The container and the protective wrapping used to transport pesticides by wholesale or retail distribution to users
- *Packing unit*. An individual container containing pesticide or a retail package containing a number of smaller packages or containers (each usually <2 l or 2 kg) of a pesticide
- *Pesticide product*. The active ingredient(s) and other components in the form in which it is packed and sold
- *Pictogram*. A graphical composition that may include a symbol and other elements, such as a border, background pattern or colour, intended to convey specific information (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals)
- *Precautionary statement*. A phrase that describes measures that are recommended to be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a pesticide or improper storage or handling of a pesticide (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, amended)
- *Primary sample*. Quantity of material, loose or packaged, taken with or without a sampling tool from a single sampling position in a container or batch
- *Procurement*. Obtaining goods and services by preparing and processing a requisition through to receipt and approval of the invoice for payment. It commonly involves purchase planning, standards determination, specifications development, supplier research and selection, value analysis, financing, price negotiation, making the purchase, supply contract administration, inventory control and stores and disposal and other related functions.
- *Procurement entity*. The entity (body) that procures pesticides
- *Professional pest management pesticides*. Pesticides used by certified professional pesticide applicators to control pests, including termites and structural pests in houses, commercial and industrial premises and public areas
- *Public health pesticides*. Pesticides used to control pests of public health significance, including vector control pesticides, household insecticides and professional pest management pesticides
- *Referee analysis*. An analysis performed in an independent laboratory staffed by suitably experienced personnel, agreed by the parties to a dispute, in order to certify the quality of a disputed sample
- *Sampling report*. Standard report form completed by an inspector at the time of sampling and countersigned by the person responsible for the batch at the time the sample is taken
- *Technical material*. Material resulting from a manufacturing process, comprising the active ingredient and associated impurities
- *Testing laboratory*. Laboratory authorized by the responsible authority to test pesticides for their compliance with quality specifications
- *Tender*. Invitation for bids in the procurement of goods and services (including pesticides)
- *Triangulation*. Arrangements in which a donor funds the repacking and movement of a stock of pesticides from a country that has an excess stock to a country in direct need of the product.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pesticide procurement is a highly specialized and complex subject. Expertise is required to ensure that appropriate high-quality pesticide products are procured rapidly, efficiently, economically and in a fair and transparent manner. It also requires the existence of national policies and guidelines, with clear and transparent procedures supported by appropriate legal provisions and controls.

Large quantities of public health pesticides are procured annually through national or international tender procedures. It is estimated that an average of 4429 tonnes of active ingredient of organochlorines, 1375 tonnes of organophosphates, 30 tonnes of carbamates and 414 tonnes of pyrethroids were used annually for global vector control during the period 2000–2009 in WHO's six regions (1). Indoor residual spraying programmes to control malaria vectors in Africa have expanded significantly in recent years: the number of people protected in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 13 million in 2005 to 75 million in 2009. In addition, by the end of 2010, approximately 298 million long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LNs) were delivered to the African Region for malaria prevention. The burden on public health due to nuisance pests is significant, leading to the use of considerable

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