

## Description of the SPIDER pesticides database

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#### EU regulations

There is no EU legislation that requires a database to be established for pesticides or associated statistics on pesticides. The directive on plant-protection and biocidal products states that data must be recorded on what products are approved. A proposal for a new EU Regulation about statistics on plant-protection products is available (COM (2006) 778, 2006/0258/COD)

#### Statistical characteristics

The statistics are based on data supplied by companies. The statistical data from the database is shown in tons of active substances sold (CFU and the number of specimens, in thousands, for biological preparations) and the number of products for the respective active substance. Quantities relate to the amount sold in Sweden (not exports).

#### Population and object

The population consists of approved chemical pesticides (biocidal and plant-protection products) and biological pesticides used in Sweden (not exports).

Reference period: A person who has held approval for a pesticide at some point during the calendar year must report the amount sold, even if it is zero.

The population also consists of all companies that reported such an import or manufacture.

#### Variables

The database contains data on the authorisation category for all approved chemicals and biological pesticides, compound data (name, CAS number and content), user category, type of product in the statistics. The database also contains a great deal of other data that is not used for statistics. Information is available from 1976.

#### Study domains

The material includes all approved pesticides in Sweden. The amounts of pesticide sold are subdivided according to type of product, user category and category of authorisation to use the pesticide. The published statistics are compared with data from previous years.

## **Nomenclature**

### **Type of product**

An overall classification of the purpose for which the pesticide must be used. There is a connection to product types on the products register.

### **User category**

We request an assessment divided into user categories: agriculture, forestry, horticulture, industry and use in households. In certain statistics, the “user category” is referred to as the “industrial category”.

### **Authorisation category**

Approval for a pesticide is always subject to conditions relating to the person who is to use it. Users are divided into three categories in which authorisation to use the product depends on, for example, level of knowledge.

The provisions on the authorisation category are contained, inter alia, in section 20 of the Plant-protection Ordinance (2006:1010), sections 25 and 46-49 of the Biocidal Products Ordinance (2000:338) and the Chemicals Inspectorate’s Regulations (KIFS 2008:3) annexes 1 and 2.

### **CAS no.**

The CAS no. is a chemical substance’s identity number. We keep a register associated with the database containing the name of the substance, as indicated by the ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation), the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) name and even synonyms (trade names). Mainly the ISO name is used.

### **Active substance**

The substance/organism that causes the product to have the desired effect for the use for which it is intended.

### **Chemical pesticides**

Chemical products that are intended to prevent or counteract damage or adverse situations for human health or damage to property by animals, plants or micro organisms, including viruses.

### **Biological pesticides**

Biotechnical organisms that are specially produced to prevent or counteract damage or adverse situations for human health or damage to property by animals, plants or micro organisms, including viruses.

### **Accuracy**

Overall accuracy

The data supplied is largely accurate. Incoming data is checked and errors are corrected. The companies report the amount of the product transferred, other than for export, and how much of the product they themselves have used. Companies must also estimate in

broad terms what quantities are divided among user categories. Quantities of all approved products sold must be reported even if sales are zero.

## ***Sources of inaccuracy***

### **Sampling**

Notices are sent out to all companies that have held an approved product at some point during the year. All products are largely reported and included in the extracts of data that form the basis for statistics.

Companies must also estimate the division of the quantity transferred among user categories. This estimate can sometimes be difficult since it is often impossible to state precisely who will use the product and in what activity. This is because statistical data relates to the quantities delivered to the retail industrial category.

### **Coverage**

As far as quantity data is concerned, coverage is practically 100 per cent.

### **Non-respons**

It occasionally occurs that one or more companies (out of a total of approximately 165) fail to supply data. This is often the case when sales are zero. The difficulties involved in producing this data are often caused by the fact that the company in question has ceased trading (due to bankruptcy, merger, etc.).

### **Data processing**

The data is checked. Errors are corrected. In case of doubt, the person supplying the data is contacted. Established processing reports exist for recurring statistics.

### **Model assumptions**

The data supplied to us only relates to the quantity used in Sweden (retail industrial category). We assume that there are no large stocks with intermediaries. There is some hoarding due to changes in legislation. This is not compensated for in the statistics.

### ***Timeliness***

### **Production time**

The quantity data for the previous year is supplied to the Chemicals Inspectorate by 28 February. The data is recorded in March/April and the statistics are checked and corrected in April/May and sent for printing in June. Processing time: 12-16 weeks.

### **Frequency**

Data is compiled on a yearly basis.

### ***Comparability***

### **Comparability over time**

The statistics have been published every year since 1979. Each publication also includes a comparison table for the previous five years. The user categories and product types have largely remained unchanged over the years. Certain changes have been made with

regard to the user area for approval. The presentation of the statistics has changed because the Chemicals Inspectorate is no longer responsible for deciding on classifications and labelling in approval decisions. This led to tables 2.4 - 2.7 being removed from the statistics from 2002 onwards.

### **Comparability between domains**

The SCB calculations of dosages per hectare are based on data compiled by KemI.

### ***Availability***

#### **Rules on secrecy and regulations on refining data**

Extracting data from the Spider database is subject to the Secrecy Act. This means that if it is considered that the data could cause damage for the person who supplied it, it is not disclosed.

Companies may raise objections to the publication of data for active substances/organisms in relation to the supply of the data. Companies have a right to secrecy if there are fewer than three companies who have the same active substance.

Companies must request secrecy in writing.

The basis for the "quantity data" statistics is requested in accordance with government management rules. There are no regulations on refining data.

#### **Access to micro data**

Primary material is subject to special physical protection and is contained in a database to which only a few people in the pesticides department have access. Only KemI personnel have access to primary material. Data is extracted and processed by only one person in the pesticides department

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