



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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SECTION 25(b) PESTICIDE LABELS

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This fact sheet describes what Section 25(b) minimum risk pesticides are and how their labels differ from other pesticides.

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Section 25(b) Pesticide Labels

Except in very limited circumstances, any substance that makes a pesticidal claim must be registered by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) before it can be legally sold or distributed. One such exemption to the registration requirement is for those pesticides under Section 25(b) of the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act](#) (FIFRA). In 1996, EPA exempted certain minimum risk pesticides from FIFRA requirements if they satisfy certain conditions. EPA exempted the products described in [40 CFR 152.25\(g\)](#) in part to reduce the cost and regulatory burdens of EPA on businesses as well as the public for pesticides posing little or no risk, and to focus EPA's limited resources on pesticides which pose greater risk to humans and the environment.

All pesticides sold in Colorado, including 25(b) exempted products, must be registered by the [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#).

Exempt active ingredients

Products containing the following active ingredients are exempt from the requirements of FIFRA, alone or in combination with other substances listed below:

Section 25(b) Exempted Products (Active Ingredients)	
Castor oil	Linseed oil
Cedar oil	Malic acid
Cinnamon and cinnamon oil	Mint and mint oil
Citric acid	Peppermint and peppermint oil
Citronella and citronella oil	2-Phenethyl propionate (2-phenylethyl propionate)
Cloves and clove oil	Potassium sorbate
Corn gluten meal	Putrescent whole egg solids
Corn oil	Rosemary and rosemary oil
Cottonseed oil	Sesame (includes ground sesame plant) and sesame oil
Dried blood	Sodium chloride (common salt)
Eugenol	Sodium lauryl sulfate
Garlic and garlic oil	Soybean oil
Geraniol	Thyme and thyme oil
Geranium oil	White pepper
Lauryl sulfate	Zinc metal strips
Lemongrass oil	

Permitted inerts

An exempted pesticide product may include only inert ingredients listed in the [4A Inerts List](#). These ingredients are considered to be minimal risk inert ingredients. List 4A is generally reserved for those substances that are common foods or substances that are ubiquitous in nature and are not expected to present a hazard to human health or the environment.

The 4A list is updated periodically and is published in the [Federal Register](#). The 4A Inerts list was recently updated in December, 2002. Please discard any outdated lists, as they may contain ingredients which may no longer be exempted. The most current list may be obtained by writing to:

Registration Support Branch (4A Inerts List)
Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Other conditions of exemption

All of the following conditions must be met for products to be exempted under 25(b):

- Each product containing the substance must bear a label identifying the name and percentage (by weight) of each active ingredient and the name of each inert ingredient.
- The product must not bear claims either to control or mitigate microorganisms that pose a threat to human health, including but not limited to disease transmitting bacteria or viruses, or claims to control insects or rodents carrying specific diseases, including, but not limited to ticks that carry Lyme disease.
- The product must not include any false and misleading labeling statements.

25(b) labels

The pesticide manufacturer is responsible for label content and structure. There is no approval or review of the label by EPA before it goes to the marketplace. There are also no requirements for signal words, personal protective equipment, EPA registration numbers, or EPA establishment numbers (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#)).

References and Resources

American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators. <http://aapse.ext.vt.edu/aapse.html>.

List 4A Inert Ingredients. 2002. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Washington D.C. http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/inerts/inerts_list4.pdf.

Pesticide Colorado Registration Query Page. 2002. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/Pesticides/PPRS/PPRSQuery.htm>.

The 25b List. 2002. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Washington D.C. http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/biopesticides/regtools/25b_list.htm.

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