PSD BETTER REGULATION, COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

1. Despite the benefits they offer, pesticides are designed to be biologically active so are inherently hazardous. The regulatory system is therefore designed to ensure that pesticides constitute no unacceptable risk to the health of people, animals and the environment.

2. But in operating the pesticides approvals process the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) aims to ensure that the control arrangements provide the necessary assurance of safety in ways which are least burdensome to manufacturers and users.

3. Since it was set up in 1993 PSD has therefore introduced a number of measures to limit the regulatory impact on business whilst maintaining high safety standards. Close cooperation with stakeholders has enabled the agency to keep the pesticide approval arrangements under close scrutiny and to simplify their operation whenever possible thereby minimising the burdens they impose.

4. But it must be emphasised that great care is taken by PSD to ensure that any such better regulation measures it introduces are not to the detriment of the existing rigorous, safety-based system of pesticide regulation.

PSD’s Better Regulation, Compliance & Enforcement Strategy

5. In its latest ‘Rolling Three Year Business Plan’ PSD has a high level Objective in relation to better regulation and compliance (Objective 2), namely:

   - To ensure that UK objectives are reflected in EC legislation, to actively monitor the use of pesticides, to secure a high level of compliance with pesticide regulations and to contribute to the Government’s Better Regulation agenda.

6. PSD has to account to Defra and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) for delivery of that objective. To do this, PSD has produced a draft Better Regulation, Compliance & Enforcement Strategy. As the name suggests the strategy as well as covering better regulation also covers the related Hampton issues of compliance and enforcement which are currently contained in PSD’s ‘Compliance & Enforcement’ Framework document.
Issues for the Forum

7. PSD’s Better Regulation & Enforcement Strategy describes for officials in Defra and DBERR the approach that PSD has developed with its stakeholders. It is principally being presented to Pesticide Forum members for information. But PSD would welcome any comments that members may have on the strategy itself or for any ideas on how stakeholders may engage with PSD on delivering the ‘better regulation’ agenda.