



Weed Control Factsheet

Road maintenance and local municipalities are challenged on an ongoing basis to control weeds around roads and other public settings in a manner that is safe to the public and their employees. Roadside maintenance can be dangerous to public servants who must stand or conduct maintenance activities while automobiles and other forms of transportation are passing, sometimes at high speed.

Facts Regarding the Use of Glyphosate –

1. Glyphosate has been safely used for several decades.
2. Glyphosate is safe and cost effective - its use can reduce labor costs because of its effectiveness.
3. National regulatory authorities and independent experts around the world agree that there is no evidence that glyphosate cause's cancer, even at high dosage levels.
4. Numerous studies over the last forty years assessing the carcinogenicity and genotoxicity of glyphosate support the conclusion that glyphosate is safe when used as labeled and **poses no health risk to workers or the public.**
5. The recent classification of “probable carcinogen” by the International Agency for Research on Cancer does not mean that glyphosate causes cancer in humans. As such, the classification by IARC is confusing and can cause substantial concern among the millions of glyphosate users globally. The study is so limited in its scope of analysis, that its results cannot be regarded as scientifically reliable or sound.
6. Credible scientific bodies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, WHO/FAO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency, and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority have all concluded that glyphosate is safe.

Facts Regarding the Use of Registered vs. Exempted Pesticide Products

1. Registered products have undergone an intensive review process including data to support the product's safety and ensure it is efficacious.

2. As a cost saving measure, beginning in 1996 U.S. EPA began exempting products from registration requirements if they are already regulated by another agency or if they're considered minimal risk to human health and the environment and meet criteria outlined in federal regulations.
3. While these products *are* considered pesticides, they are exempt from the registration review and approval process.
4. Products that are exempt from registration like SeaCide, are not subject to any type of review or evaluation, especially in regards to efficacy. As a result, users cannot be assured of the effectiveness of products or be certain of the short or long-term safety of that product.
5. Because exempted products do not have a US-EPA registration number, it is almost impossible to determine if a product is exempt or unregistered. Using products that claim to be exempt from registration requirements could subject the applicator to a fine if in fact the products require registration, resulting in the applicator using unregistered pesticide products.
6. Again, exempt products are not reviewed for efficacy. Products that qualify for exemption for registration are not held to the same standards as registered products. Therefore, applications will likely have to be made more often and usually require additional manual labor to accomplish the same task as registered products.
7. The need for multiple applications could in fact result in the general public being put at greater risk as this could result in greater concentrations of the exempt product (which has not undergone the extensive safety review a registered product under goes) by accumulating in soils.
8. Workers will be placed at greater risk, as the lack of efficacy will result in multiple applications to control weeds or manual weed removal efforts, putting workers at greater risk of being injured or killed by passing forms of transportation.
9. Registered products are less costly than products that qualify for exemption from registration requirements because they are scientifically developed and proven to work as directed. Exempt products require repeat applications and additional resources to accomplish the same task, resulting in higher long-term labor and product costs than using registered products.