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Date: 12/22/2015

GAIN Report Number: CA15118

Canada

Post: Ottawa

US Seed Exporters Subject to New Ontario Insecticide Regs

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the Economy

Grain and Feed

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

The Canadian province of Ontario has introduced new regulations that govern the buying, selling and use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybeans seeds. Under these new regulations, U.S. vendors of corn and soybean seeds that are treated with the neonicotinoid insecticides and that sell into the Ontario market will be subject to licensing and reporting requirements as well as certain restrictions on whom they can sell to. The responsibilities of the vendor/exporter under these new regulations will vary according to the business model of the vendor.

U.S. Seed Exporters Subject to New Ontario Insecticide Regulations

The Canadian province of Ontario has introduced new regulations that govern the buying, selling and use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybeans seeds. The regulations are designed to reduce the number of acres planted with neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed by 80 per cent by 2017. The regulations will impact U.S. vendors/exporters of corn and soybean seeds treated with the neonicotinoid insecticides that sell into the Ontario market. The responsibilities of the U.S. vendor under these new regulations will vary according to the business model it is operating under.

New Class of Pesticides:

Ontario has assigned the following neonicotinoid pesticides a new class called Class 12:

1. imidacloprid
2. thiamethoxam
3. clothianidin

This new class applied to corn seed grown for grain or silage and soybean seed and the buying, selling and use are now subject to a number of reporting rules and restrictions.

Vendor Licenses:

As of August 31, 2015, a vendor of a Class 12 pesticide will need to obtain a new treated seed vendor license from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change by submitting the [Application Form for Treated Seed Vendors](#). The cost of the license is 200\$ and is valid for five years.

In addition, in order to sell Class 12 pesticides, vendors will need to submit a [List of Class 12 Pesticides Submission Form](#) to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for Class 12 pesticides that they will have available for sale to customers through their operation by July 31 every year, starting in 2015.

The aggregated information will be made publically available on the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change website on August 31 of each year. Information that vendors will be required to submit includes:

1. the pesticide's variety name,
2. the concentration, in milligrams per seed, of imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam contained in the pesticide,
3. the name of the manufacturer of the pesticide,
4. the name and the class of the pesticide that was used to treat the seed that makes it a Class 12 pesticide, and,
the registration number assigned to the pesticide under the Federal Pest Control Products

There is a requirement that licensed vendors who offer Class 12 pesticides for sale must also offer for

sale seeds of that commodity (i.e. corn or soybeans) that are not Class 12 pesticides.

Conditions of Sale:

Ontario is also regulating the conditions under which the Class 12 pesticides can be sold. **From July 31, 2015 to August 30, 2016 (2016 planting season)**, vendors will be able to sell a Class 12 pesticide to a farmer:

1. if the farmer signs and gives vendors a completed Seed Amount Declaration Form confirming that he or she is not buying neonicotinoid-treated seed in an amount greater than what is required to plant 50 per cent of the total area in the agricultural operation where they intend to plant seeds of that commodity; or,
2. if the farmer that wants to plant the treated seed on more than 50 per cent of the total corn or soybean crop at their agricultural operation on the condition that the farmer has a completed pest assessment report and provides that report to vendors.

On or after August 31, 2016 (2017 planting season), vendors will only be able to sell to a person who provides:

1. a certification number obtained through completion of the new [integrated pest management \(IPM\) training](#);
2. a written declaration to the vendors that the grower has considered IPM principles before purchasing a Class 12 pesticide; and
3. a completed and signed pest assessment report.

Complete information on the neonicotinoid regulations and the new obligations of seed vendors is available at the following URL address: <http://www.ontario.ca/page/neonicotinoid-regulations-seed-vendors#section-1>