

Newsletter

Introducing the...

Pesticides Regulatory Directorate!

Effective April 1, 2026, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) became the Pesticides Regulatory Directorate (PRD) within the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch of Health Canada.

New name, same spirit

While we are now called the Pesticides Regulatory Directorate, you will recognize a number of familiar faces. PRD will continue the legacy of scientific excellence and a risk-based approach to decision making.



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Mandate and authorities

The PRD will continue to deliver its mandate under the *Pest Control Products Act*, including the evaluation of the health and environmental risks, as well as value, of pest control products.

So what's changing, really

This move follows Health Canada's Comprehensive Expenditure Review. As noted in the [Health Canada 2026-27 Departmental Plan](#), spending reductions will be achieved by: Modernizing and streamlining operations, focusing resources on its core mandate. Shifting toward a more efficient and integrated regulatory system.

Enhancing alignment with international best practices, and strengthening evidence-based decision-making.

The change streamlines corporate and administrative operations for consumer products, which includes pesticides, and allows PRD resources to be focussed on core scientific activities and regulatory integrity.

As PRD takes flight, we'll be reviewing our engagement tables and advisory bodies to see where we can improve our partnerships.

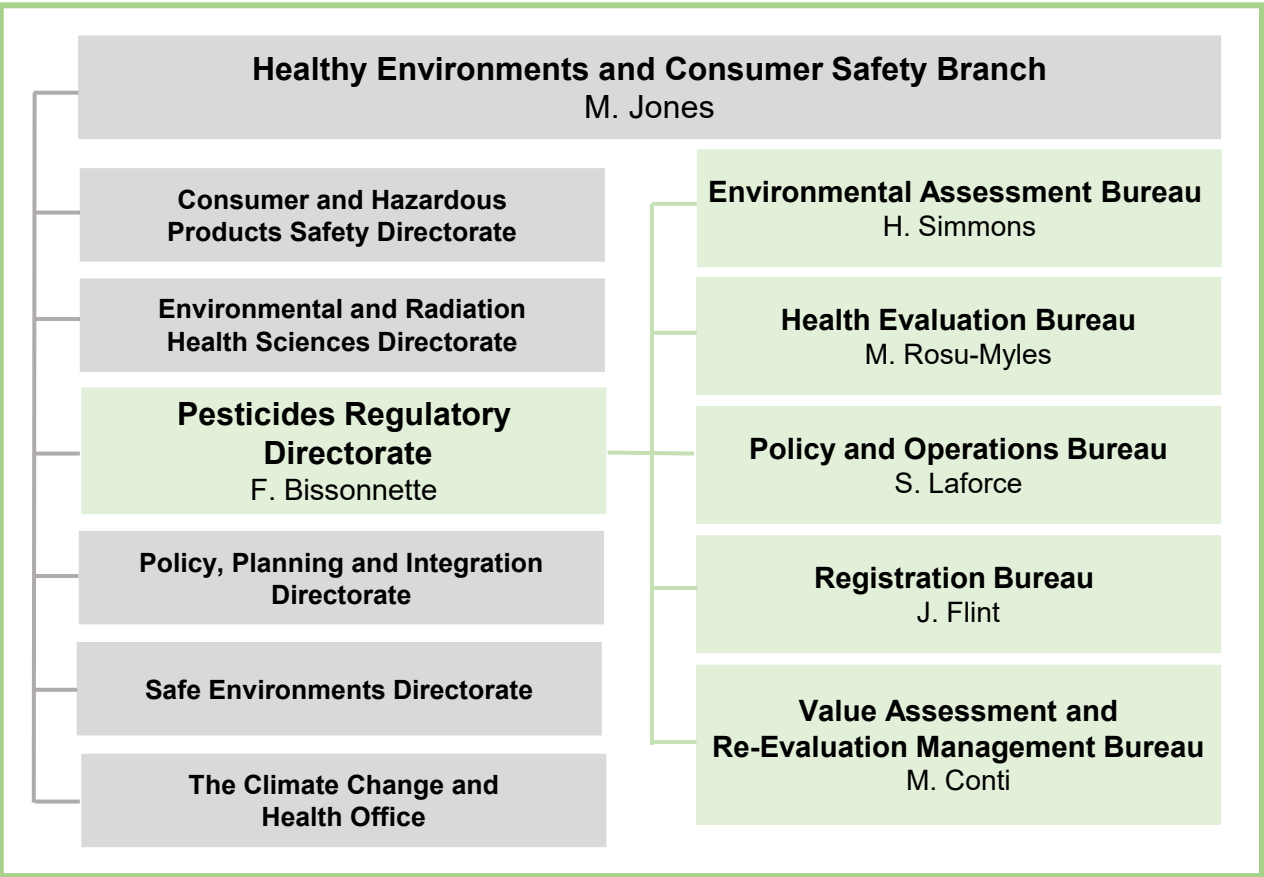
The PMRA's *Pest Management Information Service* has been renamed PRD's *Pesticides Information Service* (InfoServ), aligning with our new name. The PRD's InfoServ can now be contacted at: pesticides-info@hc-sc.gc.ca.

The PRD is also reinforcing a centralized approach to managing external stakeholder inquiries through InfoServ to support consistent, timely, and coordinated communications. For general questions related to pesticides, policies, or PRD mandates, stakeholders are encouraged to contact InfoServ as the Directorate's primary point of entry. While InfoServ is PRD's preferred single-window contact, any ongoing planned, targeted, or file-specific engagements with subject-matter experts may continue, as appropriate.

Please excuse our appearance as we undergo changes

The PMRA has existed for 31 years. That's a lot of documentation, templates and webpages! We hope you'll be patient as we update content to our new name and adapt to new ways of working. Note that changes are happening across Health Canada, so there may be temporary issues with accessing documents or broken web links.

If you're experiencing service standards that exceed the norm, please reach out to pesticides-info@hc-sc.gc.ca.



Red Tape Review – PRD actions

Last summer, the Government of Canada launched a Red Tape Review across the federal regulatory system. Health Canada viewed this exercise as an opportunity to review all regulatory frameworks with an eye to modernizing and increasing agility.

On September 8, 2025, [Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada's report on red tape reduction](#) was published on Canada.ca. The Report included several initiatives for PRD (formerly PMRA) over four themes:

Initiatives	Timeline	Status	Next step
1. International alignment and reduction of trade barriers			
Expanding international joint reviews for pest control conducts	Long-term (2+ years)	On track	Working with applicants and international counterparts to identify candidate reviews
2. Improving client experience and service delivery			
Modernizing labels for pest control products	Medium-term (within 2 years)	On track	Q3 26-27: Pre-consultation on proposal
Launching a secure web portal for pest control product applications	Short-term (2025-2026)	On track	Q1 26-27: Engage applicants
3. Risk-based regulating			
Applying continuous oversight and proportional effort	Short-term (2025-2026)	Completed	Implementation
4. Streamlining regulations, simplifying rules, and enhancing flexibility			
A) Amending the Pest Control Products Regulations (product exemptions)	Medium-term (within 2 years)	On track	Q1 26-27: Canada Gazette I consultation
B) Amending the Pest Control Products Regulations (pest control devices)	Medium-term (within 2 years)	On track	Q4 26-27: Canada Gazette I consultation
Amending the Pest Control Products Regulations (antimicrobial-treated Class I medical devices)	Short-term (2025-2026)	Completed	n/a
Limiting pest control product renewals (Discontinue requirement for product renewal, except for data access purposes)	Medium-term (within 2 years)	On track	Q3 26-27: Pre-consultation on proposal

New tools for an increasingly complex pesticide regulatory landscape

Continuous Oversight and Proportional Effort

The PRD has been managing an increased pace and volume of new information and expanding complexity of pesticide reviews for a number of years. To help with these pressures, two complementary policy approaches were introduced in Fall 2025:

[Policy on continuous oversight of pesticides](#): published October 2025

[Policy on Proportional Effort](#): published December 2025

Together, these policies help modernize the approach to pesticide review, enabling efficiency and increased protection.

Increasing health and environmental protection with more efficient processes

The Continuous Oversight (CO) policy outlines how PRD is moving away from a point in time monitoring approach towards implementing a proactive and continuous approach for monitoring scientific information sources.

These information sources include:

- Pesticide incident reporting information,
- Pesticide water monitoring information,
- Chemistry information for technical grade active ingredient products, and
- Scientific literature and regulatory information.

These are **not new** sources of information. The PRD has long considered scientific literature and regulatory information in decision making. What's new under CO is a standardized, proactive process to identify, screen and triage this type of information on an on-going basis. The outcomes will be documented and PRD will increase transparency by making these results available through semi-annual reporting. Implementation is being phased in, starting with a small number of active ingredients, with additional policy elements (such as ongoing monitoring of regulatory/grey literature) coming in later phases.

A continuous oversight approach also allows pesticide manufacturers to have more predictability about the database of information that will be considered in reviews.

Proportional Effort (PE) is a systematic approach that helps PRD apply the right level of effort to different pesticides. All pesticides registered in Canada must meet the requirement for acceptable health and environmental risks, as well as have value. However, they do not all require the same level of oversight at the same time. By directing resources to the products that warrant it, PRD can act more quickly and thoroughly when health or environmental concerns are more likely to arise.

Proportional Effort (PE) introduces a risk-based framework to help triage pesticides for oversight. All pesticides registered in Canada must meet the requirement for acceptable health and environmental risks, as well as have value. However, it is important to recognize that they do not all have the same profile and do not require the same level of oversight. Directing greater attention to higher-risk products allows PRD to respond more quickly and thoroughly where health or environmental concerns are most likely to arise. Together, these two key policies help PRD modernize how pesticides are reviewed across their lifecycle by focussing our resources where they are needed most while improving health and environmental protection.

Next Steps

Implementation has begun.

The workplan for chemistry verification has been published in April 2026: [Pesticide chemistry verification process: Updated work plan and outcomes - Canada.ca](#).

We are pleased to share with you that the PRD is monitoring the scientific literature for several active ingredients.

Currently, active ingredients being monitored under CO must meet the following criteria:

- The most recent final regulatory decision for the active ingredient was a major decision (such as a new active ingredient, major new use, or re-evaluation) made in or following fiscal year 2024–25.
- The active ingredient continues to have registered uses following the re-evaluation decision, if applicable.
- The active ingredient is not currently under special review.
- It is a conventional active ingredient.

As we move forward, we will monitor active ingredients that meet the established criteria. In addition, other active ingredients that would benefit from a continuous oversight approach will also be added.

To date the following active ingredients have been onboarded into CO:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Tebuconazole | • Cyclobutrifluram |
| • Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride (DDAC) | • Glyphosate |
| • Foramsulfuron | • Fluoxapiprolin |
| • Methyl Bromide | • Spidoxamat |
| • Abamectin | • 3-chloro-4-methylaniline hydrochloride |

Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

In December 2025, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, also referred to as AGRI, issued a report titled [Unleashing The Potential Of The Canadian Agriculture And Agri-Food Sector Through Regulatory Reform](#), which outlined a number of recommendations related to the operation of PRD and pesticide regulation in Canada.

Prior to issuing the report, in Fall 2025, the Committee heard from stakeholders throughout the agriculture and agri-food value chain to learn what further steps the federal government could take to reduce the regulatory burden the sector faces and to stimulate its competitiveness.

The Government recently [responded](#) to the report. The report highlighted a number of longstanding irritants and areas of red tape related to pesticide regulation that are currently or planned to be addressed by Health Canada including the PRD. The government response allowed an opportunity to highlight the strides PRD is taking to modernize approaches and implement risk-based oversight, while acknowledging areas of further stakeholder collaboration and improvement such as:

- efficiency and predictability of Emergency Use Registrations and reducing administrative burden;
- streamlining renewal processes; and
- strengthening international alignment to help streamline reviews and improve efficiency.

Established Limits for Residual Solvents in Technical-Grade Active Ingredients

Following the release of [established limits for residual solvents in technical-grade active ingredients](#), PRD has set specific limits when benzene is present as a contaminant in other solvents used for pesticide formulation: 2 ppm for conventional products and 1 ppm for non-conventional products, with a required limit of quantitation (LOQ) of 1 ppm in both cases. (Note that benzene itself is still considered a solvent to be avoided). To ensure that benzene levels in final products remain within these limits, applicants are encouraged to use high-quality solvents in the pesticide manufacturing process.