

## Pesticides

Pesticides, biocides and veterinary medicines are strictly regulated groups of chemicals used at work or in the home. Their use offers many benefits, including greater efficiencies in agriculture and improvements in animal welfare. However, there is considerable scientific controversy about possible adverse human health effects that may arise from their use. For example, there has recently been concern about people living or working close to agricultural land who may be exposed to pesticides as bystanders. It is only through careful research that we will come to a proper understanding of the potential risks from these chemicals and how we should manage their use.



### The IOM Solution

IOM has undertaken a number of research studies to investigate both exposure to pesticides and the potential health impacts from their use. We are currently completing a study to predict the exposure of the British population to selected pesticides, biocides and veterinary medicines; arising from food, consumer products, agricultural use and the environment.

IOM has the capability to undertake surveys to measure dermal and inhalation exposure to these agents. We can assist with necessary health surveillance and can arrange for appropriate biological monitoring of exposed individuals. We can provide information about the harmful properties of pesticides and our laboratory can analyse samples to determine the pesticide content.

### RESEARCH CONSULTING SERVICES

Multi-disciplinary specialists in Occupational and Environmental Health and Hygiene

## The IOM and pesticides

IOM has undertaken pesticide-related research for the Health and Safety Executive, the Food Standards Agency, the Pesticide Safety Directorate and various industry bodies. Our staff also provide advice to government about the safety of pesticide use.

We have expertise in modelling exposure to pesticides from food residues, consumer or occupational exposure and from bystander situations. Our scientists have undertaken surveys to measure dermal exposure of workers to biocides, pesticides and veterinary medicines; and by collecting urine samples from exposed individuals.

IOM has a team of nurses and physicians who can provide advice about the appropriate health surveillance for workers handling pesticides. We have experience monitoring health performance in epidemiological studies and can apply our knowledge to your situation.

We have experience in providing advice on the selection and use of protective clothing and in testing the effectiveness of gloves and other items of protective clothing.

## Our commitment to you

Our staff can provide independent impartial advice on the safe use of pesticides, biocides and veterinary medicines. We will report our findings clearly and in a timely way. We guarantee that any commercially sensitive information will be kept strictly confidential.

## Our Pesticide services include

- Research into potential adverse health effects from pesticides.
- Assessment of dermal, inhalation and inadvertent ingestion exposures
- Assessments or risk in relation to the COSHH Regulations
- Advice on use of personal protective equipment or research into the effectiveness of protective clothing or gloves
- Training for workers and managers on the safe use of pesticides
- Laboratory analysis to identify the hazardous substances in a formulation
- Clinical examination of individual workers
- Surveillance schemes to help you manage the risks from pesticide use
- Help and advice on communication of information about risks
- Product safety reviews
- Expert witness services in relation to pesticide exposure or adverse health effects from use
- Assistance in setting up a biological monitoring programme for pesticide workers
- Research into the relative importance of pesticide residues in food
- Provision of information about the toxicology of specific compounds used in pesticide formulations

## Did you know?

You are only a phone call or a mouse click away from accessing the full range of **IOM Solutions**. These are founded on an unrivalled body of knowledge, resulting from more than three decades of research, consulting and service provision. We can bring the full weight of the IOM's knowledge and experience to bear on a wide range of occupational and environmental hazards that may pose a risk to health. These include:

- Asbestos and other fibres
- Dusts
- Chemicals
- Air pollution
- Noise and vibration
- Pesticides
- Nanomaterials, including nanoparticles and nanotubes

Our work extends to the assessment of the health consequences of exposure encompassing

- Allergy and asthma
- Silicosis and other pneumoconioses
- Other lung diseases
- Cancer
- Asbestos-related diseases
- Dermatitis
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Noise-induced hearing loss
- Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome
- Workplace stress

Our purpose is to safeguard and improve standards of occupational and public health. Our teams of scientists, clinicians and consultants include a number with international reputations in their fields of expertise. We give you access to real experts, who listen, understand, and focus on providing the solutions you seek.

**For further information please contact:**

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