



CEE Code of Ethics and Conduct

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E u r o p e a n
C r o p
P r o t e c t i o n
A s s o c i a t i o n



Introduction

ECPA and its member companies, as well as ECPA member associations in Central and Eastern Europe¹ and their membership, hereafter referred to as the Crop Protection Industry, are convinced that Crop Protection Products play a decisive role in satisfying an increasing demand for high-quality food at affordable prices.

Crop Protection Products do not pose any unacceptable risks to humans and the environment if high standards are observed within the whole life cycle of the product. Following such standards requires commitment from all stakeholders together with continuous training and stewardship efforts. The Crop Protection Industry should ensure that member companies follow standards as set out in this document and support other bodies and individuals in their efforts to meet such standards. None of the clauses of the present Code is intended to or should be interpreted or applied in a way that restricts competition.

General Provisions

Article 1

1. The FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, hereafter referred to as the FAO Code of Conduct, defines criteria for ethical and professional standards and conduct. The Crop Protection Industry, in its commitment to highest ethical and professional standards and conduct, follows the FAO Code entirely for the development, manufacturing, formulation, labelling & packaging, warehousing and transport, disposal, marketing, advertising and trade of Crop Protection Products.
2. The Crop Protection Industry should:
 - a. Conduct its business and carry out its duties in accordance with the provisions of the CEE Code of Ethics and Conduct;
 - b. Ensure compliance with the provisions as laid down in this code by all persons retained by them, whether as employees, sub-contractors or in any other capacity;
 - c. Be well-informed regarding legislation and regulation applicable to their business and comply with all requirements thereof.

Specific Provisions

Article 2

In accordance with Article 3 of the FAO Code of Conduct, the Crop Protection Industry should:

1. Ensure that only Crop Protection Products of adequate quality are supplied, appropriately packaged, labelled and registered for each market;
2. Continuously strive to reduce hazards by monitoring formulations, presentations, packaging and labelling, and by keeping track of issues arising with a view to improvement;
3. Ensure that each package of a Crop Protection Product provides information and instruction in a form (e.g. language) to ensure safe and effective use;
4. In close co-operation with international organisations and governments, encourage and support the dissemination of educational materials to the users of Crop Protection Products;

¹ According to the ECPA definition Central and Eastern Europe comprises those countries of the region that applied for EU membership, the Balkan countries and the NIS countries.

5. Commit to support the sustainable use of Crop Protection Products, e.g. by promoting Integrated Pest Management systems;
6. Commit to participate in developing strategies to prolong the useful life of valuable Crop Protection Products by reducing the risk of the build-up of resistant species;
7. Where necessary, help to organise technical assistance for the assessment of data.

Article 3

The Crop Protection Industry is in agreement that sound and proper testing of Crop Protection Products is a prerequisite of their marketing. In accordance with Article 4 of the FAO Code of Conduct the Crop Protection Industry should:

1. Ensure that Crop Protection Products are thoroughly tested by recognised procedures, for safety, effectiveness and fate under representative conditions in which they will be used;
2. Ensure that Good Laboratory Practice is applied, with sound scientific procedures to show that the product can be handled and used without undue hazard to human health and environment;
3. Ensure that authorities have access to the relevant research reports in the country where the Crop Protection Product is to be offered for sale;
4. Ensure that residue trials are conducted before marketing;
5. Ensure that the way in which Crop Protection Products are intended to be used, as well as claims and directions on labels and packages, in literature and in advertising, all reflect the outcome of the scientific tests;
6. Ensure that requests for advice and help with analytical methods and for training of technical staff are handled properly;
7. Strive for collaboration with governments in monitoring the environmental fate and behaviour of Crop Protection Products in use.

Article 4

The Crop Protection Industry will undertake all reasonable efforts to reduce potential risks to health that are associated with Crop Protection Products. In accordance with Article 5 of the FAO Code of Conduct, Industry will:

1. Ensure that the sale of Crop Protection Products is halted and they are recalled in circumstances when safe use does not seem possible;
2. Ensure that less toxic formulations are introduced wherever it is reasonable to do so, in UN standardised packages that are clearly labelled;
3. Continuously strive for the introduction of more efficient methods of application;
4. Provide doctors, and poison control centres where they exist, up-to-date information about hazards;
5. Ensure that manufactured products are of specified quality;
6. Ensure that during manufacture, engineering standards and operating practices are adopted to protect the health and safety of operatives, bystanders and the environment.

Article 5

The Crop Protection Industry believes that well-functioning registration processes for Crop Protection Products in individual countries are a prerequisite for the efficient and safe use of Crop Protection Products. The Crop Protection Industry should therefore:

1. Provide an objective appraisal together with necessary supporting data;
2. Ensure that ingredients, active or otherwise, in Crop Protection Products being marketed correspond with the substances tested, evaluated and are cleared for toxicological and environmental acceptability;
3. Ensure that active ingredients and formulated products for which international specifications have been published conform with the specifications of FAO for those to be used in agriculture, and of WHO for those to be used in public health;
4. Ensure that the quality and purity of Crop Protection Products offered for sale are verified;
5. Ensure that corrective action is taken when problems occur;
6. Fully support, respect and encourage registration authorities to request the same data from secondary petitioners as they originally requested from those already holding such a registration.

Article 6

1. The Crop Protection Industry fully supports and respects that registration data submitted to regulatory authorities are proprietary to the submitting company and must be protected from unauthorised use for the benefit of any secondary applicant unless the use of data is authorised by the owner of the data or unless a period of proprietary rights to the data has expired. It is, however, recognised that in principle, secondary applicants are free to generate their own data unless prohibited by specific legislation, e.g. patent law.
2. The Crop Protection Industry supports and encourages registration authorities not to grant registrations to applicants who are not the rightful owners of the data submitted to the registration authority, or who have not been granted access to that data by the data owner.

Article 7

With regard to the distribution of and trade with Crop Protection Products, the Crop Protection Industry should:

1. Distribute and sell only such Crop Protection Products that have been officially approved by government authorities on the basis of tests for safety and effectiveness;
2. Ensure that Crop Protection Products for export are subject to the same quality requirements and standards that are applied by the manufacturer to comparable domestic products;
3. Ensure that Crop Protection Products manufactured by a subsidiary company are of comparable quality with those made by the parent company;

4. Encourage importing agencies, national or regional formulators and their respective trade organizations to co-operate in order to achieve fair practices, safe marketing and distribution practices and to collaborate with authorities in stamping out any malpractice within the industry;
5. Ensure that those who sell Crop Protection Products are trained in giving advice on safe and effective use;
6. Provide information when requested to governments of importing countries on Crop Protection Products that are banned or severely restricted in the country of origin;
7. Avoid that Crop Protection Products included in the Prior Informed Consent procedure are exported to a country contrary to that country's decision. (accept PIC procedures)

Article 8

With regard to the labelling, packaging, storage and disposal, the Crop Protection Industry should:

1. Ensure that label recommendations are consistent with those of research and advisory agencies in the country of sale or countries of similar conditions;
2. Ensure that symbols as well as written instructions are featured on labels;
3. Include instructions for safe disposal and a warning against re-use of containers on the label in appropriate language;
4. Ensure that products are identified by easy-to-understand batch references;
5. Ensure that labels are marked with the date of formulation and relevant information on storage stability;
6. Ensure that packaging of Crop Protection Products be carried out by trained staff on licensed premises only.

Article 9

The Crop Protection Industry should observe the rules on advertising as laid down in Article 11 of the FAO Code of Conduct. In particular, the Crop Protection Industry should ensure that:

1. All statements are capable of technical substantiation;
2. Advertisements do not contain any statement or visual presentations which might mislead the buyer, including incorrect comparisons with other Crop Protection Products;
3. Crop Protection Products which are legally restricted to use by trained or registered operators are not publicly advertised through journals other than those catering for such operators, unless the restricted availability is clearly and prominently shown;
4. Crop Protection Products having different ingredients are not advertised under the same name;
5. Advertising does not encourage uses other than those specified on the approved label;
6. Recommendations for use do not differ from those of registration authorities;
7. Advertisements do not misuse research results or quotations from literature; or use jargon or irrelevancies to make claims appear to have a scientific basis they do not possess;

8. Unscientific Claims like “safe”, “non-poisonous”, “harmless”, “non-toxic” are not made, nor statements comparing the safety of different products;
9. Performance guarantees are not implied without available definite evidence to substantiate them;
10. Advertisements do not contain any representation of potentially dangerous practices;
11. Advertisements draw attention to warning phrases and symbols and encourage purchasers to read the label;
12. Advertisements do not contain any visual representations of potentially dangerous practices, such as mixing or application without sufficient protective clothing, use near food, or use by or near children;
13. Staff involved in sales and promotion is adequately trained and possesses sufficient technical knowledge.