

Infrastructure, Housing and Environment

Cuprokylt (copper oxychloride) Temporary Authorisation Report

(Public)

Purpose of the Report

The Minister for the Environment (The Minister) to:

1. Approve the sale, dispersal, storage and use of Cuprokylt (copper oxychloride) as a fungicide on potato and tomato crops for a temporary period beginning with immediate effect and terminating on 31 December 2023.

Background

The Pesticides (General Provisions) (Jersey) Order 1991, article 4, enables The Minister at any time to give his / her approval, or amend the conditions of an approval, in relation to a pesticide of any description.

A temporary, annual approval for the use of Cuprokylt on potato and tomato crops has been granted by The Minister for the last 6 years, including 2022. This approval serves to extend the authorisation to include the 2023 calendar year. In the U.K., Cuprokylt (marketed by Certis Belchim B.V.) currently has full approval status for use on grape crops; until the end of 2016 it also had full approval status for use on potato and tomato crops until this was withdrawn for commercial reasons. Cuprokylt has been used in Jersey for many years for the control of late blight in organically grown tomato and Jersey Royal potato crops but since the full approval status for use on tomato and potato crops was withdrawn by the U.K. authorities, organic growers have had no alternative fungicides available with which to control late blight.

A number of Jersey potato and tomato growers in the organic and conventional sectors have requested that the authorisation for cuprokylt is renewed with immediate effect to include the whole of the 2023 calendar year. The use of Cuprokylt is not seen as contentious by officers within Natural Environment because the active ingredient, copper oxychloride, does not readily leach and poses a low environmental risk. The use of copper-based fungicides is endorsed by the U.K. Soil Association. Jersey Water confirm that they have no concerns over its continued use in Jersey.

Supporting Documents

Any person or organisation wishing to use Cuprokyt in Jersey must obtain a “Temporary Authorisation for Cuprokyt” document (as attached to this report) from Infrastructure Housing and Environment. The document describes the product, provides advisory information, and sets out the conditions for authorised use, including crop maximum residue levels and spray operator protection requirements.

Written by: Scientific Manager, Natural Environment.

27 January 2023