Industry Dismayed by Lack of Science Supporting Ontario’s Decision to Ban Pest Control Products

Ottawa, ON – Wednesday, March 4, 2009 – The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) is dismayed by the Government of Ontario’s announcement today to ban over 250 federally registered pest control products and approximately 95 active ingredients approved by Health Canada. The association says there has been a lack of willingness to include appropriate scientific criteria to justify the provincial government moving forward on this issue.

“The regulation, guidance to stakeholders, lists of products and active ingredients plus the timelines are simply inconsistent and contradictory. We believe that regulation was finalized hastily and will need revision,” says Shannon Coombs, CCSPA President. “As corporate stewards, we ensure the people of Ontario have the highest standard of safety and environmental protection when using our products according to label directions. Through research, development, environmental stewardship, and adherence to strict federal and provincial regulatory requirements, our members provide safe and effective products to consumers”.

The new Ontario regulation does not provide for a predictable or transparent regulatory process or allow innovative products to come to the marketplace. Without any clear, science-based criteria or process, manufacturers will be reluctant to invest in new technology and jobs in this province.

Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) evaluates every registered product and all of their ingredients and examines any potential for health (including cancer) or environmental impact before allowing their sale in Canada. PMRA also conducts extensive science-based reevaluations of active ingredients and products currently in the marketplace. Health Canada’s science-based risk assessments are consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, European Commission and pesticide regulators in all other OECD countries around the world.

The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association is a national trade organization representing Canada’s consumer, industrial and institutional specialty products industry.

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