

INFORMATION

BULLETIN

SUBJECT: Pesticides

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Many of our accounts appear confused when examining the statement regarding the classification of a disinfectant under the broad term of pesticide. For example, all Reckitt Benckiser Professional products' MSDSs on disinfectant products state under section I; **“This product is a registered pesticide. Use of this product in a manner inconsistent with the label instructions is a violation of federal law.”**

The following is a clear definition of what a pesticide is.

What is a Pesticide? *

A “pesticide” is defined by law in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, and any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.

A “pest” is any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other microorganism that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator declares to be a pest under FIFRA.

The term “pesticide” covers a wide spectrum of substances that are used by people to make their lives safer or more pleasurable by controlling “pests”. While most people think of pests as insects, spiders, scorpions, centipedes and ticks, the term “pests” can refer to anything from viruses, bacteria, and fungi to weeds, mice and rats.

With pests covering such a wide part of life on earth, it is not surprising that pesticides are made from a wide variety of substances. Liquid bleach used to whiten clothes will probably have a disinfection claim somewhere on the label, since bleach is often used to disinfect hard surfaces. * So, bleach is a pesticide, and will have an EPA registration number on it. Every other disinfectant product has similar label information and must be registered with the EPA. Of course, insect control products for flies, mosquitoes, roaches, ants, fleas, etc., are all pesticides and conform to the same regulations administered and enforced by the EPA.

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