

Glyphosate: Assessment report open for public comment in September

Communication No 019/2021 from the BfR dated 22 June 2021

Like every other active substance in plant protection products, glyphosate is regularly re-assessed in the rolling re-evaluation of active substances within the EU. The assessment will address risks to human and animal health, the environment and substance efficacy. The task as rapporteur was currently assigned to four Member States – France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden – due to the expected extensive application documents. This Glyphosate Assessment Group (AGG) prepares the re-evaluation as a basis for subsequent consultations and decisions at EU level.

The AGG has today published a summary of its work and details of the next steps in the peer review process. This can be viewed on the AGG page of the European Commission's website.

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/approval-active-substances/renewal-approval/glyphosate/assessment-group_en.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) have issued a joint statement acknowledging receipt of the AGG's Renewal Assessment Report (RAR) and announcing the date for a parallel public consultation to begin in September 2021.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/glyphosate>
<https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-eu-regulators-begin-review-of-renewal-assessments>

The BfR will participate in the European assessment processes as part of the peer review process and public consultations as will the other 22 European member states that are not named as rapporteurs in the process.

Glyphosate is currently approved for use as an active substance in plant protection products in the EU until 15 December 2022. The current approval of the active substance glyphosate was granted by the European Commission in 2017 on the basis of the summary assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The result of the review of the classification and labelling of glyphosate by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) was included in the Commission's decision. The Federal Republic of Germany was named as the rapporteur for the joint evaluations and assessments. In these proceedings, the BfR was tasked with assessing the health risk of glyphosate among other things.

Since the submission of the revised assessment report (addendum) to EFSA by the Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) in 2015, a large number of new scientific publications have been published. During the renewal process, these have now been examined by the nominated rapporteurs as do the studies submitted by industry. Points checked include availability of new data as well as scientific reliability and relevance for the evaluation of glyphosate as active substance.

On 12 December 2019, the applicants, the so-called Glyphosate Renewal Group (GRG, a group of companies striving for a renewed approval of glyphosate in the EU) submitted an application for renewed approval of glyphosate beyond 2022 to the AGG, the other Member States, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Commission. This application formally initiates the renewal process in the EU, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009.

The application was submitted by the GRG and checked by the AGG to ensure that it meets the formal requirements of the relevant EU legal provisions (Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 844/2012 of the EU Commission on the Renewal Procedure for Active Substances).

These dossiers are checked by the AGG for admissibility, before performing a subsequent assessment based on all data and information available. This assessment is then sent to EFSA, initiating the peer review process.

Concomitantly to the evaluation led by EFSA, ECHA will review the classification and labelling of glyphosate in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP Regulation) of the EU. The classification of chemicals is based solely on the properties of a substance. It does not take into account how likely it is to come into contact with this substance (exposure). Exposure is considered part of the EFSA-led risk assessment process.

The AGG published a summary of its work and details of the next steps in the peer review process on 15 June 2021. This can be viewed on the AGG page of the European Commission's website.

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/approval-active-substances/renewal-ap-proval/glyphosate/assessment-group_en.

Any questions about the report can be sent to the contact email AGG@ec.europa.eu.

Further information on the topic of glyphosate is available from the BfR website:

http://www.bfr.bund.de/de/a-z_index/glyphosat-126638.html

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

This text version is a translation of the original German text which is the only legally binding version.