

Glyphosate - what comes next and where can I have my say?

Communication No 002/2021 from the BfR of 1 February 2021

Glyphosate is currently approved for use as an active substance in plant protection products in the EU until December 15 2022. The renewal process for the approval of glyphosate started in December 2019. According to the current timeline of the proceedings, there will be an opportunity to actively participate in 2021. Against this backdrop, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is providing information on the process.

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. Within this process the task of rapporteur is routinely passed on to another Member State. For glyphosate these are currently four member states - France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden - due to the expected workload for this application. These countries prepare the re-assessment report which serves as basis for the subsequent consultations and decisions at EU level.

The current approval of the active substance glyphosate was granted by the European Commission in 2017 on the basis of the summary assessment report by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The respective decision also included the result of the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) evaluation of the classification and labelling of glyphosate. Rapporteur for the joint evaluation and assessment was the Federal Republic of Germany. Within this process the BfR was correspondingly tasked with assessing and evaluating aspects of human toxicology.

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 to be 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.

For all interested persons, organisations, associations or other engaged parties, there will be opportunities for public commenting as highlighted at the end of the document.

A graphical description of the European process can be found here:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/glyphosate>

Concomitantly, a new proposal for classification and labelling is expected. This proposal will likewise be subject to commenting during a public consultation.

General information can be found here:

<https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/clp/harmonised-classification-and-labelling>

Further process-relevant information is available from the corresponding webpages of ECHA, EFSA and the EU Commission

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/glyphosate>

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/glyphosate_en

<https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome>

<https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/glyphosate>

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 - what is the story, past and present?

On **May 10 2019**, the European Commission appointed four Member States (France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden). Together they act as “rapporteurs” for the pending assessment of glyphosate. They are referred to as the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG). In general, the European Commission appoints the reporting Member States by consensus (with the consent of the Member State concerned). Usually a reporting Member State and a co-reporting Member State are designated for each substance. In the case of glyphosate, the expected volume of documents and workload were such that the burden was shared among the four Member States of the AGG.

On **December 12 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).

The supplementary dossiers with the required scientific studies and literature data were submitted by the GRG on **June 8 2020** (before expiry of the June 15 2020 deadline).

These dossiers are checked by the AGG for admissibility, before performing a subsequent assessment based on all 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 ECHA classification and labelling proposal will be presented in 2022 before the EFSA conclusions.

Glyphosate - where and when can I have my say?

EFSA public consultations

EFSA regularly publishes calls for public consultations on scientific topics that fall within its remit.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/consultations>

The public consultation of the new glyphosate assessment is currently scheduled for **August/September 2021**.

ECHA public consultations

It is expected that ECHA will receive a CLH report (Proposal for Harmonised Classification and Labelling) on glyphosate from the competent authorities of the Member States Sweden, France, the Netherlands and Hungary in May 2021. The exact dates for the public consultation on the change in the legal classification of glyphosate have not yet been announced by ECHA.

Information on this will be available here, after the new CLH report has been published:

<https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome>

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

https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/a-z_index/glyphosate-193962.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. It advises the German federal government and German federal 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.