

## Potato Industry CIPC Stewardship Group (PICSG) statement

The Potato Industry CIPC Stewardship Group (PICSG) has continued to develop and promote best practice for use of chlorpropham for sprout suppression in the UK. This has helped to maintain the availability of this crucial sprout suppressant to producers and industry since stewardship was introduced in January 2008, eleven years ago. There have been significant improvements in the efficiency of CIPC application and use and no reported exceedances of the 10ppm Maximum Residue Level (MRL) since February 2014.

In parallel with the stewardship programme, the agchem Approval Holders in the CIPC Task Force (Aceto, Certis and UPL) prepared and submitted the dossier for EU renewal of chlorpropham. However, as well documented, following the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Peer Review, the European Commission recommendation is for non-renewal of CIPC. Although CIPC has been on the agenda of several meetings of the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) over the past year, until the meeting in February 2019 no vote had been taken. After each meeting the CIPC Task Force provided a statement for the stewardship [BeCIPCCompliant](#) website. At the SCoPAFF meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February there was a vote, but no qualified majority was achieved to support non-renewal and so the decision now moves to the EU Appeal Committee, which expected to meet within 6 weeks. The CIPC Task Force statement is [here](#).

At the Standing Committee meeting there was also an agenda item about the need to consider establishing a temporary-MRL (t-MRL) for CIPC in potatoes should a decision be made for non-renewal of the active. Normally the MRL would fall to the limit of quantification (LOQ) (0.01 ppm) in the event of non-renewal of an active substance. However a t-MRL may be granted which would be at a level safe for consumers and account for low-level contamination of potatoes by CIPC residues (associated with the fabric of store). This would allow for continued marketing of the stored crops in future years. This is an exceptional measure and the Commission and Member States agreed that this should be investigated, along with approaches to reduce store CIPC residue contamination.

Dr Mike Storey, chair of the Stewardship Group, stresses that the timeframes and outcomes of the decisions for the recommendation on non-renewal and the establishment of a t-MRL are not yet known or agreed. "However, the implications for industry are potentially critical. Growers and store managers need to consider what these recent EU developments about probable non-renewal of CIPC mean and be aware of the most recent technical developments around sprout management options for their own businesses. They should be speaking with their supply chain partners, customers and advisors to get the latest information. AHDB have enhanced their Sutton Bridge research and KE activities to address this developing scenario". Information about the AHDB activities are [here](#).

*Membership of the PICSG includes agchem industry partners: Aceto, Arysta, Certis, Dormfresh and UPL, industry stakeholders: Fresh Potato Suppliers Association (FPSA), Potato Processors' Association (PPA), NFU, NAAC (CIPC applicators) and Red Tractor Assurance, and independent technical experts from AHDB Sutton Bridge Crop Storage Research and Greenwich University.*

**Website:** <http://www.cipccompliant.co.uk>

**Contact:** Dr Mike Storey, email [mike.storey@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:mike.storey@ahdb.org.uk) or mobile 07774 425646.