



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF REGULATED PRODUCTS / PESTICIDE PEER  
REVIEW – PESTICIDE RESIDUES UNITS

TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE EFSA PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK IUCLID SUB-GROUP  
NOVEMBER 2022

***Introduction and purpose for establishing:***

With the Transparency Regulation which amends, among others, the General Food Law (GFL)<sup>1</sup>, EFSA has new requirements for capturing, managing, handling and distributing Plant Protection Products (PPP) data. These changes require the specification of data formats for regulated product dossiers for adoption in an implementing act/s as well as to allow documents to be submitted, searched, copied and printed, while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements set out in Union law. It was decided to use IUCLID format and the IUCLID tool (managed by the European Chemicals Agency – ECHA) for data preparation, electronic submission and management of PESTICIDES dossiers, by means of the ECHA Cloud platform.

Applications concerning approval and renewal of active substances (chemicals and microorganisms), basic substances and MRL applications submitted after 27 March 2021 must be submitted using the IUCLID format via the ECHA submission portal.

A minimum viable product (MVP) was delivered for the submission and management of pesticides dossiers by the entry into force of the Transparency Regulation in March 2021. It is acknowledged that further work on data formats, as well as development of additional features and tools which could further automate pesticide dossier processing are required.

Considering the key role of Member States Competent Authorities in the receipt and assessment of pesticide dossiers and considering the role of applicants in preparing and submitting applications in the new format, the creation of a dedicated sub-group on

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain and amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 2065/2003, (EC) No 1935/2004, (EC) No 1331/2008, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) 2015/2283 and Directive 2001/18/EC



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IUCLID, under the umbrella of the Pesticides Steering Network, is considered essential and involvement of all actors is crucial to ensure full transparency and equal treatment to all stakeholders.

**Objectives:**

The goal of the Pesticides Steering Network IUCLID sub-group is to ensure the cooperation and governance for IUCLID for pesticides.

The main objectives of the PSN IUCLID sub-group are:

- identify issues for IUCLID backlog or IUCLID project work;
- provide input to IUCLID for Pesticides configuration, filtering rules, validation rules and report templates (aligning where possible with Biocides), contributing to the further development of features and tools which could automate pesticide dossier processing;
- consider specific requirements for PPP dossiers
- participate in testing IUCLID releases;
- channel all requests for changes coming from pesticides submissions to the OECD IUCLID User Group Expert Panel who is the body deciding on the IUCLID changes to be implemented;
- channel all requests for changes and proposal for improvements before the relevant yearly release of IUCLID;
- based on practical experiences using IUCLID, provide input to further refine the EFSA helpdesk support, IUCLID training materials and IUCLID implementation;
- act as point of reference for all IUCLID related issues and proactively share the information within the organisations of their country or organisation;
- share experience on the “on the job practice” to contribute to the further development of common working procedures.

**Members**

The network shall be composed by:

- Representatives from Member States, nominated through the PSN;



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- Representatives from EFSA's registered stakeholders, category Business and food industry, focused on the pesticides area, were selected via a call for expression of interest. No other expressions of interest were received in response to the call for expression of interest sent to EFSA's registered stakeholders, categories Business and food industry and Environmental/Health NGOs and Advocacy groups, focused on the pesticides area;
- Representatives from ECHA;
- Representatives of the European Commission are entitled to attend meetings of networks as observers. Representatives of other agencies, bodies or Institutions of the European Union, third countries or international organisations may be invited to attend meetings of networks as observers.

***Access to meetings***

***Member States***

Participation to IUCLID PSN sub-group meetings is granted up to 4 participants per Member State.

Member States wishing to nominate one alternate for ad hoc participation to meetings or replace permanently one of the members must contact EFSA at [pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu) indicating contact details of the expert.

***Industry representatives***

Participation to IUCLID PSN meetings is granted up to 4 participants per Industry association.

Industry associations wishing to permanently replace one of the current participants or nominate alternate for ad hoc participation to meetings are invited to contact EFSA at [pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu).

***Other organisations***

Other organisations may be invited, including those from outside the EU, with specific expertise to participate in a network meeting, where deemed appropriate or necessary. These organisations may be invited either to participate in full or as observers only.



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In addition, representatives of the European Commission may participate in the work of the networks. Representatives of other EU agencies may participate in the work of the networks as appropriate.

### ***Working methods***

The sub-group shall meet physically or virtually at least once a year, preferably to provide timely feedback for the implementation of the following IUCLID version The working language for the Network Activities will be English. The meetings will be divided in two parts: a general session where all members will be attending and a session focusing on the needs from a risk assessor perspective and restricted to representatives from Member States, ECHA, Commission, EFSA.

In between the meetings written consultations on proposed changes might take place.

In addition, the network will use other means of collaboration:

- Dedicated Microsoft Teams channels and space on SharePoint.

Access to Teams space is granted to officially nominated participants, substitutes and ad hoc participants for both MSs representatives and Industry associations.

### ***Deliverables and Outcomes***

- Meeting agenda, minutes and presentations are published on the EFSA website<sup>2</sup>

### ***Timeline***

The terms of reference will be renewed after 3 years, and therefore in 2024.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/pesticides/networks>