California State's Announcement on Glyphosate

On June 26, 2017 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), State of California (United States) has announced that from July 7, glyphosate, an active ingredient of our company's herbicide product Roundup[®] Maxload, will be added as a carcinogenic substance to a list, that is commonly known as the Proposition 65 List of the State.

However, in Japan, in July 2016 the Cabinet Office's Food Safety Commission, which serves as an independent risk evaluation agency, assessed that "no neurotoxicity, carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, teratogenicity or genotoxicity was observed" for glyphosate. Moreover, Proposition 65 is a state law that has been independently enacted by the State of California, and thus this does not affect the use of Roundup[®] Maxload in Japan. Therefore, we hope that you will continue to use our company's products.

Details regarding this press report are described below:

California Proposition 65 (Proposition 65: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986) is a law that was enforced in the State of California in November 1986 for protecting humans and drinking water from harmful chemical substances. Substances to which this law applies are added to this list, and to date more than 850 substances have been listed.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) decided to add glyphosate to this list based on Monograph 112 of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which was published in 2015, and wherein the carcinogenicity of glyphosate was classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A).

However, in the United States the federal authorities announced on March 17, 2017 that glyphosate is "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." Moreover, since IARC's announcement until today, Europe, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, as well as WHO's JMPR have one after the other announced their evaluations that deny the carcinogenicity of glyphosate.

[Reference]

IARC International Agency for Research on Cancer: A subordinate agency of the World Health Organization (WHO) that was set up for conducting research on the causes and prevention of cancer, and for collecting and disseminating information on cancer.

WHO World Health Organization: A specialized organization of the United Nations.

JMPR Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues: Was set up jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO for determining pesticide residue levels.

Food Safety Commission

Agency that was newly set up within the Cabinet Office on July 1, 2003 for objective, neutral and fair risk evaluations based on scientific knowledge, independent from related government agencies that carry out risk management e.g. through regulations and guidance, and under the basic recognition that the protection of the nation's health is of paramount importance.

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