



# Plant protection products and bees State of play

Marianna Paolino  
Unit E3 pesticides & biocides



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## Outline of the presentation

1. Approval criteria and new data requirements
2. EFSA Guidance document on the risk assessment of plant protection product on bees
3. Restrictions on use of clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam and fipronil
4. EFSA evaluation of foliar uses
5. Conclusions



# Honeybees - Criteria for the approval of pesticides

**Approval only when the intended use confirms:**

- ✓ **Negligible exposure to honeybees or**
- ✓ **No unacceptable acute or chronic effects on**
  - Colony survival and
  - Development
- ✓ **Taking into account effects on larvae and behavior**



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# **New Data requirements (also) for bees (Reg 283-284/2013)**

**Applicable since Jan 2014**

*Effects on bees to be evaluated and risks assessed:*

- **Residues or metabolites in pollen, nectar and water**
- **Drift of dust for seed treatment**

*Tests to be submitted for*

- **Acute oral and contact toxicity**
- **Chronic toxicity**
- **Effects on development and other life stages**
- **Sub-lethal effects**



## More flexible structure

*Regulation (data requirements)*

*Communication (test guidelines)*



**updated more frequently**

# New "risk assessment scheme" for bees

2011- COM mandate EFSA to Review

2 steps approach:

Step 1 - EFSA Opinion on the Science behind the risk assessment for bees (May 2012)

Step 2 - Guidance document for the risk assessment for bees (July 2013 – July 2014)

## ***Terms of reference:***

- *The Guidance Document should address the risk to **Apis mellifera**, **Bombus spp** and to **solitary bees**.*
- *The assessment of the **acute and chronic** effects of Plant Protection Products on bees, including the **colony survival and development**.*
- *The estimation of the **long term effects** due to exposure to **low concentrations**.*
- *The development of a methodology to take into account **cumulative and synergistic effects**.*
- *The evaluation of the existing validated test protocols and the possible need to develop new protocols, especially to take into account the exposure of bees to pesticides through **nectar and pollen**.*



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# Three separate RA schemes

## Contact & oral

- *sprays*
- *solids (seed treatments, granules)*

✓ **Honey bee**

✓ **Bumble bee**

✓ **Solitary bee**

***Additional separate schemes for water consumption and for the metabolites***



# Differences from the previous guidance



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Before only considered the risk from acute oral and acute contact toxicity.

## New scheme:

1. Chronic risk to adults
2. Risk to larvae
3. Risk from guttation water
4. Cumulative effects

Risks from foraging the plants in field margin and the adjacent crop and succeeding crops

- ✓ exposure via contact
- ✓ consumption of pollen
- ✓ consumption of nectar
- ✓ consumption of water

# Risk management measures

## **Regulations (EU) No 485/2013 and No 781/2013**

Significantly restrict the use of PPP and treated seeds containing clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam and fipronil

**Review** of the new scientific information within 2 years

# EFSA Conclusions clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam seed treatment and granules (Jan 2013)

Acute risks identified for all crops attractive  
to bees

Several data gaps and need for further  
studies

Some safe uses (e.g. sugar beet, green  
houses)





## Regulation (EU) No 485/2013

Significantly restricts the use of pesticides containing 3 neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam)

The uses of plant protection products and treated seeds will remain available only to professional users for:

- crops not attractive to bees
- greenhouses
- winter cereals
- post-flowering foliar application



The Commission should initiate a review of new scientific information within 2 years

## ***Review according to Article 21 (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009)***

- 1. EFSA Open call for data (closed today 30  
September 2015)*
- 2. EFSA risk assessment*
- 3. Only if justified, review of the measure*



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# EFSA Conclusions clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam foliar uses (26 August 2015)

Overall **risk confirmed** for the majority of treated scenarios for foliar/spray application before and during flowering.

# Conclusions



- ***New data requirements applicable***
- ***New risk assessment scheme***
- ***Restriction for systemic insecticides***
  - Review initiated – open call closed***
- ***EFSA recently confirmed the risk on the evaluation of foliar uses.***