



PRESS RELEASE

December 18th, 2025

Ctgb to review products containing PFAS

The Ctgb will review 46 plant protection products containing PFAS. This decision was taken at the board's December meeting. The decision follows earlier Danish research findings, which shows that various PFAS substances in plant protection products break down into TFA (trifluoroacetic acid), a degradation product that can easily enter the groundwater.

National approach

In the interests of good groundwater quality, the Ctgb wants to take action as soon as possible. The Ctgb has assessed the Danish data for reliability and relevance to the Dutch situation. Due to differences in national criteria and groundwater models used, national calculations are needed to determine whether the products in question also lead to the legal groundwater standard being exceeded here. If so, the products no longer meet the authorisation criteria. The Ctgb is using the new data on the formation of TFA and the Dutch groundwater model to review the products. This concerns all authorised products based on the active substances of *fluopyram*, *fluazinam*, *diflufenican*, *mefentrifluconazole*, *tau-fluvalinate* and *fluazifop-P-butyl*. Not only authorised products, but also new and pending product applications based on these substances will be assessed for TFA formation.

Risk for drinking water

TFA hardly breaks down, is highly mobile and thus accumulates in groundwater. TFA does not currently pose a health risk, as exposure via drinking water remains well below the acceptable daily intake. In the future, however, rising concentrations of TFA could have an impact on groundwater quality and, consequently, drinking water quality.

Europe

The Ctgb had previously advocated accelerating the review of substances in Europe. However, the Ctgb does not consider it responsible to wait for the regular European renewal process, as this is not expected to proceed quickly enough. Similar to other European countries that opted for a re-evaluation – Norway and Sweden – the Ctgb wants to take all decisions by April 30th, 2028 at the latest.

Advice to the Minister

The Ctgb realises that this decision may have major consequences for the availability of plant protection products in agriculture. Furthermore, it is expected that TFA-producing active substances will no longer be approved in Europe in the long term. The Ctgb therefore advises the Minister of LVVN to have the consequences for agriculture investigated further. Attention should be paid to alternatives for products that may be withdrawn.

All applicants and authorisation holders concerned will be informed by the Ctgb in the near future.