

Consultation on the approval of active substance alpha-bromadiolone under the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR)

Rodents control is essential, and in many cases a legal requirement, to prevent disease transmission, consumption and contamination of food and feedingstuffs, structural damage and to remove social abhorrence. Alpha-bromadiolone active substance is an anticoagulant rodenticide (also referred to as AVK) that acts by disrupting the normal blood clotting mechanisms resulting in increased bleeding tendency and, eventually, profusing haemorrhage and death. Currently, the anticoagulant rodenticides are the dominant substances because they are recognised as the most effective ones for rodent control. Other methods are available: alternative active substances or biocidal products as well as non-chemical solutions. A comparative assessment was carried out in 2017 as part of the process for the renewal of anticoagulant active substances approval. It was concluded that all alternatives may have some interest but also have major drawbacks, either in terms of efficacy, practical or economical disadvantages, toxicity to non-target species or lack of antidotes. Hence, anticoagulant rodenticides are considered essential for efficient and effective rodent control in order to maintain good public hygiene and protect public health.

As the already approved anticoagulant active substances for product type 14, alpha-bromadiolone fulfils the exclusion criteria according to article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012. However, it has to be noted that the development of this new active substance enables a huge improvement with regards to the potential of bioaccumulation in the target organisms compared to other existing anticoagulant rodenticides. Indeed, alpha-bromadiolone has a reduced hepatic persistence in rodents, which is a major advantage in terms of secondary poisoning risk. As a matter of fact, when comparing the level of alpha-bromadiolone residues in rodents liver with the ones of the bromadiolone active substance (already approved for product type 14), the risk of primary and secondary poisoning of non-target organisms is significantly reduced. This considerable decrease in risk compared to already approved anticoagulant active substances should be considered positively for the environment and consequently in the case of a comparative assessment with existing rodenticide solutions, when considering the control of serious danger to human and animal health in which rodents are involved.

Therefore, based on the above, it can be concluded that the active substance alpha-bromadiolone used in product type 14 is:

- efficient to prevent or control a serious danger to human and animal health, to the environment, as well as in maintaining the integrity of structures and electrical systems,
- a real innovation reducing substantially the impact on non-target organisms
- a new solution with an improved profile suitable to be included in the toolbox to control rodents.