

Substance name: Hexaflumuron

EC Number: 401-400-1

CAS Number: 86479-06-3

Evaluating competent authority: Portugal

HEXAFLUMURON Bait against termites

Termites are a common pest in southern Europe, particularly subterranean termites (*Reticulitermes* spp.), which cause significant damages to buildings, neighborhoods and even whole villages. The main food of these termites is cellulose in the form of wood, paper, textiles, etc. but during their search for food, they may also degrade many other materials which they do not consume. That is why termites represent one of the most dangerous problems that building wooden structures can suffer: they are difficult to detect; its ability to act is very fast; they can cross any material, including concrete; damages can remain hidden and when detected, generally, are irreparable.

Spain is severely infested by subterranean termites, widespread throughout the geography, due to weather conditions: warm temperature combined with the right amount of humidity. Depending on the species, each colony may contain from several thousand to several million individuals spread out over a surface area up to 1 ha.

Buildings at old quarters of cities are the most affected. Important cities in the Spanish historical heritage are usually target of termites. An example might be the historic quarter of Cordoba, with its monuments, being especially sensitive the Jewish Quarter, where there is a need to detect the pest early because the termites produce cracks in the walls of the houses, in the frames of the doors, even affect the structure of the buildings and can pass from one shelter to another in less than 24 hours.

To control this damaging pest there are two possible ways: liquid chemical treatments and bait systems (like the hexaflumuron based one). Liquid termiticides need significantly more active ingredient per site than bait systems and are declining in Europe.

In conclusion, we consider that Dow Agrosiences' hexaflumuron formulation (SENTRITECH Termite Colony Elimination System) used in baits must be positively taken into consideration by the members of the Commission, as a positive advice for its evaluation.

Hexaflumuron absence in the market could determine a drastic decrease in termite control, from either a quantitative or a qualitative point of view. The problems caused by this pest are not only linked to the amount of affected buildings but also the relevance of some of them.

We are strongly convinced that Spanish historical heritage and villages need this tool as an effective mean for preventing attack of termites and so we request to retain EU authorization of hexaflumuron to ensure the product is available to limit the termite's irreparable damage.

We hope that you will take our concerns into consideration and ensure that this product can be approved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Bezos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jose Luis Bezos