Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology

ADJUVANT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

Choosing The Right Adjuvant For Optimal Weed Control And Fewer Complaints

In 1976, there were only three crop protection products requiring the addition of a tank-mix adjuvant for optimal performance. Today there are over 1,000 pesticide labels requiring an adjuvant with more than 2,500 adjuvants from which to choose.

We know that choosing the right adjuvant can impact up to 50 percent of the performance of the product. How do you know which one to choose?

THE IMPORTANCE OF ADJUVANTS TO GROWERS

The use of the wrong adjuvant can severely reduce pesticide performance, resulting in crop injury, weed resistance, yield reduction, and the resulting complaints from growers.

Without a required adjuvant

30% – 90%

Performance reduction

Wrong type of adjuvant

5% – 50%

Performance reduction and crop injury risk

Good enough vs. premium adjuvant

5% – 25%

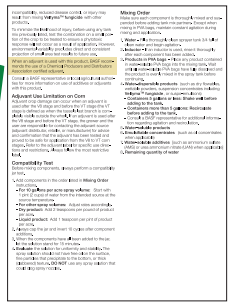
Performance gap

EPA INVOLVEMENT

The standard statement on a product label is as follows:

When an adjuvant is to be used with this product, (manufacturer's name) recommends the use of a Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA) certified adjuvant.

When an adjuvant is used with this product, BASF recommends the use of a Chemical Producers and Distributors Association certified adjuvant.



Additionally, the EPA has granted an exemption for resubmitting a label for manufacturers who wish to add that statement to its current label.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY ADJUVANT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

CPDA encourages agricultural pesticide manufacturers to use the EPA-approved statement on labels, but also on websites, literature, videos, and anywhere appropriate to confirm the importance and integrity of approved adjuvants.

Following is a partial list of crop protection product companies using the CPDA-certified statement on their labels.

- ADAMA
- Albaugh
- AMVAC
- Arysta
- ATTICUS
- BASF
- Bayer
- Corteva
- FMC
- Helena
- Innvictus
- Sipcam
- Sharda
- Syngenta
- WinField United
- WECO

THE HISTORY

From the late 1960s to the mid-1980s, U.S. farmers predominantly used pre-emerge herbicides, and adjuvants were focused on end-use formulations. Since mid-1980 to now, the transition to post-emergent herbicides significantly increased the use and need for tank-mix adjuvants to enhance herbicide deposition and performance. In 1976, just three products (atrazine, glyphosate and paraquat) required the use of an adjuvant.

The Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA) Adjuvant Task Force developed Labeling and Performance Standards for Spray Adjuvants adopting 17 Articles of Standards in July 2000. This resulted in the process for an adjuvant to be considered a CPDA-Certified Adjuvant.

Today, there are 225-plus CPDA-certified adjuvants appearing on 500-plus crop protection product labels marketed by nearly 35 registrants.

THE NEED

The need for a certification program included several factors:

- Adjuvants are not registered and regulated like crop protection chemicals
- There was little standardized terminology
- Product claims often were undefined
- Some adjuvant labels did not communicate safe handling and storage guidelines
- Performance of adjuvants varied
- Use of the wrong adjuvant and rates occurred too frequently

THE PRINCIPLES OF CPDA CERTIFICATION

- Voluntary and self-certifying program
- Benefits for both end-users and manufacturers
- Certification is based on common standards and label guidelines

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS CRITERIA

- Functionality claim(s) must be defined in either an ASTM-1519 or ASTM-609
- Ingredients approved for use on food crops as defined by USEPA in 40 CFR part 180 or by FDA in 21 CFR
- Product labeling and packaging compliant with USDOT regulations
- SDS must be registered with 24-hour emergency response service
- Basic toxicity studies - dermal, oral, and eye irritation – required; additional studies required if product component is hazardous or if label contains recommendation for aquatic use
- Protective equipment requirements must be included on the label
- Product claiming surfactant properties must display the percentage the surfactant component represents in the formulation in its raw form
- Oil-based adjuvants must define the type of oil used

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit application to CPDA including:
  - Company details
  - Product name and type (NIS, COC, MSO, SDS, etc.)
  - Toxicity studies
  - SDS
- The CPDA Adjuvant Certification Committee conducts a thorough review for:
  - Application accuracy and completeness
  - Compliance with the 17 Articles of CPDA Labeling and Performance Standards for spray adjuvants
- Upon approval, the CPDA sends official notification to the applicant
  - Applicant signs licensing agreement and pays a certification fee
  - Applicant is now permitted to designate and market the CPDA Certified seal of approval on the product label and marketing materials

Find current CPDA-certified adjuvant products at cpda.com/cpda-certified-product, agrian.com, and CDMS.net

4201 Wilson Blvd, Suite 700 Arlington, VA 22203
Email: info@cpda.com
Phone: +1 (202) 386-7407
CPDA.COM

©2022 Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology. All rights reserved.
V1 5/9/22