

Amended Agro-Pesticide Act Requires Buyers to Register

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The "Agro-pesticide Act" was amended on 24 December, 2014. It intended to track the flow of agro-pesticides and to clarify the responsibilities of illegal drugs, expressed by the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan. The amended Act extended the regulation of filing the agro-pesticides by registering information of buyers. Meanwhile, agro-pesticide dealers should provide the selling proof. Selling agro-pesticides and their application will be fully safeguarded by this amended regulation in the future.

Agro-pesticides are harmful chemicals. In order to tighten their control, the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine refers to the regulations in the US, Japan, and other countries. The provision of Agro-pesticide Act regulates: "agro-pesticide dealers shall bookkeep all required information for three years or follow the regulations by other central authorities. The information includes the agro-pesticide buyer's name, address, age, contacts, name of purchased agro-pesticides, and their quantities." By doing this, the related authorities are able to understand the flow of pesticides.

Farmers often use pesticides illegally, because they blamed the agro-pesticide dealers for their misleading recommendations. On the other hand, agro-pesticide dealers intended to defend no illegal circumstances of wrong recommendations, which mostly caused ambiguous responsibilities of any illegal clarifications.

The Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine also rules in the Agro-pesticide Act: "agro-pesticide dealers shall issue the proof of the agro-pesticide name, the quantity, and the effective scope, the buyer, and sales proof of agro-pesticide dealer information to all to buyers." The Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine in their efforts to strengthen the propaganda as specified above said, they will issue warning tickets to illegal dealers. Further in 2016, it also plans to strengthen inspection to implement the provision of the responsibility of selling agro-pesticides in collaboration with the local governments.

The Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine further said that the amended Act took the current status into consideration regarding sales and applications of agro-pesticides and their applications as well as consumers' expectations for the safety of agricultural products. After sufficient discussions among nationwide dealers and local authorities, the amended Act regulates a fine ranging from NT\$ 15,000 up to NT\$150,000 on whoever would violate these provisions. It urges dealers to fully comply with the relevant provisions to protect the buyers and the consumers' safety.

In addition, the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine said, to further regulate the highly toxic pesticides control, such as “Paraquat”, it has already started to limit pesticide spray dealers to purchase toxic pesticides. The notice of amendment on toxic pesticide qualification of buyers in January 2015 (effective for implementation in July 2016) already limited its purchase and declared that only the agro-pesticide or pesticides spray dealers can purchase the following four highly toxic pesticides: Paraquat, **Paraquat + diuron, Aluminium phosphide** and Magnesium Phosphide.

Tightening the management of highly toxic pesticides is an important policy nowadays as it complies with the international trend. In the meantime, it can also ensure sustainable agricultural production environment towards a healthy and safe production of agricultural products. The Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine will continue to strengthen pesticide management and other related regulations to reduce pesticide risks.

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