

standards may be declared “eligible” for reregistration. To be eligible, an older pesticide must have a substantially complete data base, and must not cause unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment when used according to Agency approved label directions and precautions.

In addition, all pesticides with food uses must meet the safety standard of section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) 21 U.S.C. 346a, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996. Under FFDCA, EPA must make a determination that pesticide residues remaining in or on food are “safe”; that is, “that there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue” from dietary and other sources. In determining allowable levels of pesticide residues in food, EPA must perform a more comprehensive assessment of each pesticide’s risks, considering:

- Aggregate exposure (from food, drinking water, and residential uses).
- Cumulative effects from all pesticides sharing a common mechanism of toxicity.
- Possible increased susceptibility of infants and children; and
- Possible endocrine or estrogenic effects.

As amended by FQPA, FFDCA requires the reassessment of all existing tolerances (pesticide residue limits in food) and tolerance exemptions within 10 years, to ensure that they meet the

safety standard of the law. EPA was directed to give priority to the review of those pesticides that appear to pose the greatest risk to public health, and to reassess 33% of the 9,721 existing tolerances and exemptions within 3 years (by August 3, 1999), 66% within 6 years (by August 3, 2002), and 100% in 10 years (by August 3, 2006). (Note: Although the total number of tolerances existing on August 3, 1996, and subject to FQPA reassessment was initially reported as 9,728, that number has been corrected to 9,721, based on the Agency’s Tolerance Reassessment Tracking System.)

EPA is meeting the FFDCA’s tolerance reassessment requirements through reregistration and several other program activities. In making reregistration eligibility decisions, the Agency also is completing much of tolerance reassessment, which is helping us meet the time frames mandated by the new law. EPA reassessed the first 33% of all food tolerances by August 3, 1999, and the second 33% of all food tolerances by August 3, 2002. EPA is focusing particularly on priority Group 1 pesticides, those identified as posing the greatest potential risks. Over half of the universe of tolerances to be reassessed are included in this category, including tolerances for the organophosphate (OP) pesticides, the Agency’s highest priority for review. Carbamate, organochlorine, and B2 (probable human) carcinogen pesticides also are included in priority Group 1. Although EPA is directing most of its resources toward this group,

a number of Group 1 pesticides will nevertheless be reassessed in the third 33% owing to the challenging issues they present. EPA’s approach to tolerance reassessment under FFDCA, including the three priority Groups, is described fully in the Agency’s document, “Raw and Processed Food Schedule for Pesticide Tolerance Reassessment” (62 FR 42020, August 4, 1997) (FRL–5734–6). In conducting the pesticide reregistration and tolerance reassessment programs at present, EPA is developing measures that show results in terms of outcomes, as well as traditional outputs, as directed by OMB.

III. FQPA and Program Accountability

One of the hallmarks of the FQPA amendments to the FFDCA is enhanced accountability. Through this summary of performance measures and goals for pesticide reregistration, tolerance reassessment, and expedited registration, EPA describes progress made during the past year in each of the program areas included in FIFRA section 4(l).

A. Status of Reregistration

During fiscal year (FY) 2002 (from October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2002), EPA made significant progress in completing risk assessments and risk management decisions for the OP pesticides, the Agency’s highest priority chemicals for reregistration and tolerance reassessment, and for other pesticides. See Table 1.

TABLE 1.—REREGISTRATION/RISK MANAGEMENT DECISIONS COMPLETED: FY 2002 AND TOTAL

FY 2002: 36 Decisions	Total, End of FY 2002
7 REDs 1,4-Bis(bromoacetoxy)-2-butene Endosulfan ¹ Fenamiphos (Voluntary Cancellation) ² (HOCH ₂ -)methylthiocarbamate (Voluntary Cancellation) Lindane ¹ Oxyfluorfen Thiabendazole	214 REDs
8 IREDs Azinphos-methyl ^{1,2} Diazinon ^{1,2} Dicrotophos ² Disulfoton ² Methamidophos ² Naled ² Oxydemeton-methyl ² Phosmet ^{1,2}	21 IREDs