Does your product contain phosphorous acid (H₃PO₃)/Phosphite?

Yes

Is there a source of phosphoric acid (H₃PO₄)/phosphate in your product?

Yes

1. Adhere to the format presented in § 2309(b). X% must be guaranteed for available phosphoric acid, total phosphoric acid, and insoluble phosphoric acid.

Report percentage of available phosphate in the grade

Include required statements according to § 2309(a)(1)(2)(3)

Include heavy metals statement on the label and submit heavy metals analysis

No

1. Adhere to format presented in § 2309(a). X% Total phosphoric acid must be guaranteed.

No

State phosphate as zero in grade (N-0-K) or include an asterisk (N-P*-K) to clarify the phosphorus stated in the grade is not in the phosphate form.

No

Continue with Application

1. See § 2309 attached
2. See Notice to Industry attached
PHOSPHOROUS ACID LABELING AID

§ 2309. Phosphorus Materials.

(a) Products that contain phosphorous acid shall state on the label the percentage of “Total phosphoric acid”, upon conversion of phosphorous acid.

Total phosphoric acid (P2O5) __________% 

In addition the label shall state the following:

(1) Phosphorous acid products are for use as a supplemental fertilizer treatment.
(2) Upon foliar application, the phosphite ions are taken up directly by the plant foliage and may undergo a degree of conversion to phosphate ions, or will be used directly by plants, as phosphite ions.
(3) As a soil application to annual crops, a lesser response from the initial crop, with a corresponding superior response from succeeding crops, may be observed. In addition, placement close to seeds or root zones may be injurious to crops. The effect may be aggravated by a soil pH below 6.5.

(b) Products that contain Phosphoric acid shall state on the label the percentage of “Available Phosphoric Acid”. If, in addition, a percentage of “Total Phosphoric Acid” is stated, the percentage of “Insoluble Phosphoric Acid” (Citrate-Insoluble Phosphorus) must be stated immediately below, for example:

Available Phosphoric Acid (P2O5) __________% 
__________% Total Phosphoric Acid (P2O5) 
__________% Insoluble Phosphoric Acid (P2O5)

NOTICE

To: Fertilizer Industry

Labeling of Phosphorous Acid Products

Pursuant to the December 6, 2003 revision of Title 3, California Code of Regulations Section 2300, phosphorous acid products shall no longer guarantee available phosphoric acid, utilizing AOAC Official Method 960.02.

Fertilizing materials that contain phosphorous acid shall now state on the label the percentage of “Total phosphoric acid” in the guaranteed analysis statement as follows. The AOAC method of analysis is not to be stated in the guarantee.

Total phosphoric acid (P₂O₅) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . X%

“Available phosphoric acid” is not to be guaranteed in products that contain only phosphorous acid as a source of phosphorus. The following information is still required on the label of phosphorous acid products to avoid crop injuries and assure the most favorable opportunity for plant response:

1) Phosphorous acid products are for use as a supplemental fertilizer treatment.

2) Upon foliar application, the phosphite ions are taken up directly by the plant foliage and may undergo a degree of conversion to phosphate ions, or will be used directly by plants, as phosphite ions.

3) As a soil application to annual crops, a lesser response from the initial crop, with a corresponding superior response from succeeding crops may be observed. In addition, placement close to seeds or root zones may be injurious to crops. The effect may be aggravated by a soil pH below 6.5.

The Agricultural Commodities and Regulatory Services (ACRS) Branch will enforce the above provisions to assure consumers of fertilizing materials that the product purchased is properly identified, and is of the quality and quantity represented by the manufacturer. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation may also regulate some uses of this substance as a pesticide under the Authority of Division 7 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.
To: Fertilizer Industry  
March 30, 2004  
Page 2  

This notice supercedes the Notice to the fertilizer industry dated March 19, 1996. If you have any questions regarding the regulation changes, please contact Maryam Khosravifard of the ACRS Branch at (916) 445-0444. Should you have questions concerning uses of this substance as a pesticide, please contact George Farnsworth with the Department of Pesticide Regulation at (916) 445-4163.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Paulsen, Branch Chief  
Agricultural Commodities and Regulatory Services Branch  
Inspection Services  

SP/kq  

bcc: George Farnsworth, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Roy Rutz, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Renee Pinel, California Plant Health Association
NOTICE

To: Fertilizer Industry

Labeling of Phosphorous Acid Products

On March 30, 2004, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) distributed a notice to industry explaining the new labeling requirements regarding products containing phosphorous acid. It has come to our attention that there is still some confusion as to how phosphorous acid products, for commercial use, shall state the grade.

You may use either option below:

1) State the grade as zero (0), since the grade designation is the percentage of available (not total) P$_2$O$_5$, as stated in the guaranteed analysis.

Example:

N-0-K

2) You may put an asterisk by the grade number and an asterisk by the additional label statements regarding the slow release and/or conversion of phosphite ions. The intent of the asterisk option is to clarify for the users that the phosphorus stated in the grade is not in the phosphate form.

Example:

N-P*-K

Phosphorous acid products are intended to be used as a supplemental fertilizer treatment.

* Upon foliar application, the phosphite ions are taken up directly by the plant foliage and may undergo a degree of conversion to phosphate ions, or are utilized directly by plants, as phosphite ions.

* As a soil application to annual crops, a lesser response from the initial crop, with a corresponding superior response from succeeding crops, may be observed. In addition, placement close to seeds or root zones may be injurious to crops. The effect may be aggravated by a soil pH below 6.5.
When determining the total percent N-P-K singularly, or in combination, for the purpose of defining the product as a commercial fertilizer or agricultural mineral, the value of P shall always be considered as zero percent (0%) for phosphorous acid products.

Any questions regarding this notice may be addressed to Suzanne Turcotte at (916) 445-0444.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Paulsen, Branch Chief
Agricultural Commodities and Regulatory Services
Inspection Services

STP/kq