

**AGP: CP/95**

**FAO SPECIFICATIONS  
FAO PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS**

**GAMMA-HCH (LINDANE) + MERCURIAL POWDERS FOR SEED TREATMENT**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 1980**

## **DISCLAIMER<sup>1</sup>**

FAO specifications are developed with the basic objective of promoting, as far as practicable, the manufacture, distribution and use of pesticides that meet basic quality requirements.

Compliance with the specifications does not constitute an endorsement or warranty of the fitness of a particular pesticide for a particular purpose, including its suitability for the control of any given pest, or its suitability for use in a particular area. Owing to the complexity of the problems involved, the suitability of pesticides for a particular purpose and the content of the labelling instructions must be decided at the national or provincial level.

Furthermore, pesticides which are manufactured to comply with these specifications are not exempted from any safety regulation or other legal or administrative provision applicable to their manufacture, sale, transportation, storage, handling, preparation and/or use.

FAO disclaims any and all liability for any injury, death, loss, damage or other prejudice of any kind that may arise as a result of, or in connection with, the manufacture, sale, transportation, storage, handling, preparation and/or use of pesticides which are found, or are claimed, to have been manufactured to comply with these specifications.

Additionally, FAO wishes to alert users to the fact that improper storage, handling, preparation and/or use of pesticides can result in either a lowering or complete loss of safety and/or efficacy.

FAO is not responsible, and does not accept any liability, for the testing of pesticides for compliance with the specifications, nor for any methods recommended and/or used for testing compliance. As a result, FAO does not in any way warrant or represent that any pesticide claimed to comply with a FAO specification actually does so.

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<sup>1</sup> This disclaimer applies to all specifications published by FAO.

## **INTRODUCTION TO FAO SPECIFICATIONS DEVELOPED UNDER THE OLD PROCEDURE**

Between 1975 and 2000, FAO published booklets of specifications for technical materials and related formulations of plant protection products. Revisions of, and additions to, already published specifications will be issued when necessary. However, all changes and revisions of FAO specifications are now subject to the new procedure described in the *Manual on the development and use of FAO and WHO Specifications for Plant Protection Products*, FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper No. 173, Rome 2002 (*Revised First Edition* available only on the FAO home page of the Internet at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pesticid/>)

FAO specifications developed under the old procedure are based on the requirements defined in the Fourth Edition of the *Manual on the development and use of FAO specifications for plant protection products*, Plant Production and Protection Paper No. 128, Rome 1995.

This manual contained detailed definitions and other essential background information on basic procedures and technical principles adopted by the group on Pesticide Specifications of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements, Application Standards and Prior Informed Consent, such as:

### 1. Categories of Specifications (Section 3.1 of the Manual)

FAO Tentative Specifications (Code 'S/T', formerly 'TS') are those which have been recommended by FAO as preliminary specifications and which are based on minimum requirements. The methods of analysis cited are normally supplied by the manufacturer or may already have been published or be the subject of collaborative work.

FAO Provisional Specifications [Code 'S/P', formerly ('S')] are those for which more evidence of the necessary parameters is available and where some collaborative study of the methods of analysis has been carried out.

FAO (full) Specifications (Code 'S/F', formerly 'S').

Specifications that have all necessary requirements together with CIPAC (full) methods, or other collaboratively studied (proven) methods.<sup>2,3</sup>

Wherever possible, standards for apparatus and common names for pesticides are those approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

### 2. Expression of active ingredient content (Section 4.2.5 of the Manual)

- for solids, liquid technical materials, volatile liquids (of maximum boiling point 50°C) and viscous liquids (with minimum kinematic viscosity of  $1 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  at 20°C) the FAO Specification shall be based on expression of the content as g/kg;

- for all other liquids the active ingredient content of the product shall be declared in terms of g/kg *or* g/l at 20°C. If the customer requires both g/kg *and* g/l at 20°C, then in case of dispute the analytical results shall be calculated as g/kg.

### 3. Tolerance on content (Section 4.2.7 of the Manual)

A declared content of active ingredient must be included in all specifications, and one of the problems immediately arising is the level of tolerance acceptable about the nominal figure. The tolerance is influenced by (a) the reproducibility of the method of analysis, (b) the sampling error and (c) the manufacturing variance.

Allowable variations in analytical results (i.e. tolerances in content of active ingredient) with respect to specific pesticide consignments are intended to cover reasonable variations in the contents of active ingredients. For examples of such tolerances, see the table in Section 4.2.7 of the Manual.

### 4. Containers/packaging

FAO guidelines are in preparation.

Containers shall comply with pertinent national and international transport and safety regulations.

#### Technical materials, dustable powders and granules

Containers shall be suitable, clean, dry and as specified, and shall not adversely affect, or be affected by, the contents, but shall adequately protect them against external conditions.

#### Wettable powders

The product shall be packed in suitable, clean, dry containers as specified in the order. The container shall provide all necessary protection against compaction, atmospheric moisture, loss by vaporization and/or contamination to ensure that the product suffers no deterioration under normal transit and storage conditions.

The product shall be protected by an adequate moisture barrier. This may be a suitable bag of polyethylene or alternative means of giving equal or better protection.

#### Solutions and emulsifiable concentrates

Containers shall be lined, where necessary, with a suitable material, or the interior surfaces shall be treated to prevent corrosion and/or deterioration of the contents.

Additional information should be given in all specifications where particular pesticides present problems in packaging.

## 5. Biological information

### Phytotoxicity

No test can be specified to cover the possible phytotoxicity of a formulation to all crops. When a crop is not mentioned in the instructions for use, purchasers should check with the supplier that the material is suitable, always provided that such a use is not restricted or legally forbidden.

### Wetting of crops

The dilute spray should satisfactorily wet the leaves of the specified crops when used in accordance with the instructions. Test method MT 53.2, CIPAC F, p.162, may be useful.

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<sup>1</sup> *Should national pesticide specifications developed from these approved FAO specifications deviate from them, the National Authority responsible for making such changes is requested to inform the FAO Plant Protection Service of the nature of, and the reasons for, the modifications.*

<sup>2</sup> *Methods of analysis and miscellaneous techniques referred to in these specifications have been developed and adopted by CIPAC (Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council Ltd.). See CIPAC Handbooks 1 (1970), 1A (1980), 1B (1983), 1C (1985), D (1988), E (1993), F (1995), G (1995), CIPAC Proceedings 1980 and 1981, obtainable from Black Bear Press Limited, King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2PQ, England. The page numbers of specific methods are given in parentheses in the specifications. Copies of methods not yet published can be obtained from the FAO Plant Protection Service.*

<sup>3</sup> *Information on standard waters for laboratory evaluation of pesticidal formulations will be found in CIPAC Monograph 1, Standard Waters and an FAO Survey on Naturally Occurring Waters (1972), Black Bear Press Limited, King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2PQ, England.*

## **SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS TO FAO**

Any organization, commercial firm or interested individual is encouraged to submit relevant specifications, or proposals for revision of existing specifications, for pesticide products for consideration and possible adoption by FAO. Correspondence should be addressed to the Pesticide Management Group, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy.

General guidelines on preparing draft specifications are given in the *Manual on the development and use of FAO and WHO Specifications for Plant Protection Products*, FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper No. 173, Rome 2002 (Revised First Edition available only on the FAO home page of the Internet at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pesticid/>).

Specifications which are considered suitable for further processing are assigned priorities and circulated to appropriate organizations and specialists to comment. Comments, together with other relevant information, are then reviewed in detail by the Group on Specifications of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements, Application Standards and Prior Informed Consent. The drafts are converted into FAO Provisional Specifications, or full FAO Specifications.

# GAMMA-HCH (LINDANE) + MERCURIAL POWDERS FOR SEED TREATMENT

FAO Specification Code 4 $\gamma$ +40/9/S/17

## .1 DESCRIPTION

The product shall consist of a homogeneous fine powder, containing gamma-HCH (complying with 4 $\gamma$ /1/S/5; Note 1) and a mercury compound (complying with the appropriate specification; Note 2)) as the active ingredients, together with suitable fillers and any necessary formulants (including colouring matter; Note 3), and free from visible extraneous materials and hard lumps. It shall be suitable for use either dry and/or as a slurry seed treatment, as recommended.

## .2 ACTIVE INGREDIENT

### .2.1 *Mercury Compound*

The name of the mercury compound present shall be declared.

### .2.2 *Identity Tests* (4 $\gamma$ +71/0/9/m/1.6) (CIPAC 1C, p. 2135 – CIPAC 1C p. 1977)

#### .2.2.1 *Gamma-HCH* (4 $\gamma$ +40/9/m/2.7.6) (CIPAC 1C, p. 2135 – CIPAC 1C p. 1977)

Where the identities of the active ingredients are in doubt the isolated material shall comply with any two of the following:

##### .2.2.1.1 *Freezing Point* (-/M/1.6.1)

The freezing point of the isolated HCH shall be not less than 112°C.

##### .2.2.1.2 *Infrared Spectrum* (-/M/1.6.2)

The spectrum produced from the isolated HCH shall be consistent with that from a gamma-HCH standard.

##### .2.2.1.3 *Hydrolysable Chlorine* (-/M/1.6.3)

The extracted HCH after hydrolysis shall give a precipitate with silver nitrate solution. The precipitate is insoluble in nitric acid but soluble in ammonia solution.

##### .2.2.1.4 *GLC* (-/M/1.6.4)

All the HCH extracted from the formulation shall have the same retention time as that of a gamma-HCH standard, chromatographed under identical conditions.

##### .2.2.1.5 *TLC* (-/M/1.6.5)

The spot from the isolated HCH shall have the same R<sub>f</sub> value as that from a gamma-HCH standard.

.2.2.2 Mercurial (-/M/1.6.6)

Where the identities of the active ingredients are in doubt the material shall comply with the appropriate tests (Note 4).

.2.3 *gamma-HCH Content* (-/M/1.5 and 1.7)

The gamma-HCH content shall be declared and, when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than  $\pm 5\%$  of the declared content.

.2.4 *Mercury Content* (-/M/1.8)

The mercury content shall be declared and, when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than  $\pm 10\%$  of the declared content.

.3 IMPURITIES

.3.1 *Pesticidally Inactive Mercury* (-/M/1.9).

Maximum:  $\frac{ab}{100}$  % where a% is the maximum content of pesticidally inactive mercury permitted in the specification for the technical mercurial (Note 5) and b% is the content of the mercury declared under .2.4.

.4 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

.4.1 *pH Range of Aqueous Dispersion* (CIPAC 1A; MT 75.1.2)  
6.0 to 7.5

.4.2 *Dry Sieve Test* (-/M/)  
Maximum 5% retained on a 75 um test sieve.

.4.3 *Adhesion to Seeds* (-/(M)/1.11)  
The manufacturer shall declare for each seed for which the product is recommended the percentage of gamma-HCH and mercury used present on the seeds after treatment (Note 7).

.5 STORAGE STABILITY

.5.1 *Stability at 54°C* (CIPAC 1; MT 46.1.1)  
After storage at  $54 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  for 14 days the product shall continue to comply with .2.3, .2.4, .3.1, .4.1, .4.2 and .4.3.

.6 CONTAINERS

The product shall be packed in suitable, clean, dry, containers as specified in the order. The container shall provide all necessary protection against compaction, atmospheric moisture, oxidation, loss of evaporation, and/or contamination to ensure that the product suffers no deterioration under normal transit and storage conditions.

The product shall be protected by an adequate moisture barrier. This may be an inner bag of polyethylene (Note 8), or alternative means of giving equal or better protection.



The product should not be allowed to come into direct contact with metal.

Containers shall comply with pertinent national and international transport and safety regulations.

.7 BIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

.7.1 *Germination* (-/M/1.12)

The product shall show no effects on germination, within the specified limits of the tests (Note 9) of the named seeds.

## NOTES

- Note 1: This specification refers to products based on lindane, which is defined as containing not less than 99% gamma-HCH.
- Note 2: i.e., ethoxyethylmercury chloride - 71E.2ch/1/ts/14;  
ethoxyethylmercury silicate - 71E.2si/1/ts/11;  
methoxyethylmercury chloride - 71D.2ch/1/ts/14;  
methoxyethylmercury silicate - 71D.2si/1/ts/10; and/or  
phenylmercury acetate - 71C.2a/1/ts/17.  
See AGP: CP/86.
- Note 3: The product shall contain a water insoluble dye that permanently colours the seed after application (red is recommended). In some countries there is a legal requirement that a specific colour shall be used. The inclusion of a water insoluble bitter principle, to make the seed unpalatable, is strongly recommended.
- Note 4: The mercurial shall comply with the identity test given in the specification for the technical mercurial. See AGP: CP/86.
- Note 5: i.e. Mercury Content of Sodium Hydrogen Carbonate Insolubles or Free Inorganic Mercurials depending on the mercurial compound used. See AGP: CP/86.
- Note 6: If the product contains 2% mercury and 20% gamma-HCH and 20 g of sample is used in the sieve test, then the amount of mercury and gamma-HCH in the residue should not exceed 0.04 and 0.4 g respectively. i.e.:

$$\frac{(0.10 \times z) \times \text{weight of sample}}{100} \text{ g}$$

where  $z = x$  or  $y$

- Note 7: This shall be at least 60% for barley, oats and wheat.
- Note 8: Because of the variation in the nature and size of the container, its destination and other factors, it is not possible to specify the thickness of the polythylene, but as a guideline for a container with 50 kg of product, the inner liner might be, for example, at least 0.075 mm thick.
- Note 9: i.e., the tolerance given in the ISTA (International Seed Testing Association), International Rules for Seed Testing, (obtainable from Secretariat ISTA, Reckenholz, P. O. Box 412, CH-8046, Zurich, Switzerland).