

Legislative and regulatory news



Brazil: Paraquat is forbidden, but still allowed!

September 22, 2020 is the date at which the import, production and marketing of herbicides based on the active ingredient paraquat are banned in Brazil, by resolution of the collegial management (RDC 177) of the National Sanitary Surveillance Agency of Brazil (*Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária* - Anvisa). But paraquat is one of the most widely used herbicides in the country, and under pressure from the powerful Parliamentary Front of Agriculture (*Frente Parlamentar da Agropecuária* - FPA), which has been claiming that millions of Brazilian reais would be lost for the agricultural sector a result of the ban, the Ministry of Agriculture hastened to authorize the use of the remaining stocks of the herbicide for the 2020-2021 harvest. The normative instruction of October 22, 2020 states that the authorization of the use of glyphosate stocks will be completed by July 31, 2021 and defines the procedures for monitoring and inspection of the use and collection of stocks held by farmers. It also sets out the conditions of use of the product, risk management with regard to occupational exposure - for example: the use of closed-cabin tractors which are supposed to allow the product to be applied without exposing workers, or the use of personal protective equipment, etc. - whose effectiveness and applicability in tropical environments is questionable. Nevertheless, these decisions show that the use of paraquat, although banned, will continue this year without limitation. And this, in prejudice of the applicators, producers, consumers and the environment, and with the concern that Brazil, the champion of pesticide authorizations since Jair Bolsonaro's presidency, may decide to renew the authorization of this cheap product when stocks expire.