



Pesticide newsletter

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Legal and regulatory news



France: New framework for the use of non-agricultural pesticides

On January 15, 2021, a new order limiting the use of pesticides by local authorities was adopted by the government. The [order of January 15, 2021](#) "on measures to protect people during the use of plant protection products in private properties, places frequented by the public and in places for collective use ..." modifies the [order of May 4, 2017](#) on the marketing and use of plant protection products and their adjuvants taken in application of the law known as the "[Labbé Law](#)", named after the environmentalist senator who carried it. While the old version of the decree prohibited the use of chemical plant protection products by communities to maintain green spaces and roads, the new one prohibits the use of pesticides in living areas, such as condominium gardens, private parks, cemeteries and campsites.

The text targets private properties for residential use, including their outdoor and amenity spaces, hotels and collective hostels, lodgings, campgrounds and parks and residential leisure parks. Also included are cemeteries and columbaria, allotments, amusement parks, areas accessible to the public in areas intended for commerce and service activities. The ban also concerns health establishments, health centers, social and medico-social establishments, childminders' homes and the homes of childminders who take care of minors. It also extends to certain sports facilities. The use of pesticides is also prohibited in private access roads, green spaces and rest areas in workplaces and areas for collective use in educational establishments.

This decree is certainly a new step forward in the limitation of the use of pesticides after the adoption of the *Labbé law*, but its scope regarding the overall use of pesticides on the territory remains modest since it does not deal with agricultural activities. Moreover, it provides for some exceptions to the ban. In particular, sports facilities or parts of sports facilities, included in a list established for a limited time by the ministers in charge of sports and the environment, for which no alternative technical solution allows to obtain the quality required for official competitions, are excluded.

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