



John Elias Baldacci  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES  
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL  
28 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

SETH H. BRADSTREET  
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT I. BATTEESE, JR.  
DIRECTOR

February 1, 2007

From: Wesley Smith, Pesticides Registrar

To: Members, Maine Board of Pesticides Control

RE: 2007 Section 18 Petition for use of CheckMite + in managed bee colonies to control the varroa mite and small hive beetle.

Attached is the above referenced petition consisting of Tony Jadzak's letter giving a brief description of the emergency situation in Maine, the Bayer Healthcare letter of support and the proposed label. This streamlined application is in accordance with the EPA guidelines. EPA realizes the magnitude of this emergency situation across the United States and has accordingly streamlined the petition process.

Tony will be at the Board meeting to answer questions.



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY  
28 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

SETH H. BRADSTREET, III  
COMMISSIONER  
ROBERT I. BATTEESE, JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR

January 25, 2007

Wesley Smith  
Pesticide Control Board  
Maine Department of Agriculture  
SHS # 28  
Augusta, ME 04333


On behalf of the state's beekeeping industry and agricultural commodities dependent upon honey bees and beekeepers for pollination services, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry is requesting a repeat of the Section 18, Emergency Exemption for the use of CheckMite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strip, coumaphos impregnated strips, to control the Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) and South African small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida* Murray) in managed honey bee colonies. Both the Maine Pesticide Control Board and US-EPA approved the initial Section 18 Emergency Exemption requested in August 1999 and repeats in August 2000, February 2001, 2002, 2003 and April 2004, 2005, 2006 due to strains of Varroa with Apistan (fluvalinate) resistance. The current Section 18 for CheckMite+ expired February 1, 2007 and this request for a Section 18 repeat is supported by Bayer Health Care, Animal Health Division per the enclosed January 23, 2006 letter.

A viable and mobile beekeeping industry is essential for agricultural production in the US and State of Maine. Agricultural commodities produced in Maine such as: apple, blueberry, cranberry, canola and various small fruits and vegetables rely upon honey bees and beekeepers for crop pollination. These crops and locally produced honey annually contribute between \$100-\$150 million to the state's economy.

Due to the decline in overall hive numbers and the availability of alternative Varroa treatments it is estimated that the maximum number of Checkmite+ strips used in Maine during 2007 will not exceed 5,000 strips.

If you or members of the Pesticide Control board have questions about this request to repeat the Section 18 Emergency Exemption for CheckMite+, I can be reached at 287-7562. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony M. Jadcak  
State Apiarist

Cc: Robert Batteese, Director, Division of Plant Industry

# Bayer HealthCare

## Animal Health Division



January 23, 2007

Mr. Tony Jadczyk, State Apiarist  
Plant Industry  
Maine Department of Agriculture  
State House Station #28  
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

**SUBJECT: *CheckMite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strip (No EPA Reg. Number)***  
***Proposed Repeat Section 18 Emergency Exemption Use***  
***For Control of Varroa Mite and Small Hive Beetle in Honeybee Colonies***

Dear Mr. Jadczyk:

It is our understanding that you, on behalf of the beekeepers in the state, are considering a repeat Emergency Exemption for the use of CheckMite+, coumaphos impregnated strips, to control the varroa mite and small hive beetle in honeybee colonies.

This letter is to inform you of our support for this Section 18 in Maine, and to provide you with the latest information regarding progress towards a Section 3 registration. The use of coumaphos in beehives is listed on EPA's Workplan for Registration with an Office of Pesticide Programs expected completion date of second quarter fiscal year 2007.

Since we, along with IR-4, continue to actively pursue the Section 3 registration of CheckMite+ for use in beehives, we gladly support this Section 18 requested by the beekeepers in the state. We also hereby authorize the Maine Department of Agriculture to refer to any research and test data, which may become a part of the Department's files on our active ingredient, coumaphos, in support of this specific action.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call me at 913-268-2311.

Respectfully,  
BAYER HEALTHCARE LLC  
ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION

Mary McKinney Hunt  
Regulatory Specialist

Encl: Maine2007Draft



**Draft**

For Use Only Under Section 18 Authorization

For Control of Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetles in Honeybee Colonies

For use only as authorized in MAINE by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under section 18 of F.I.F.R.A. This labeling must be in the possession of the user at the time of application. This labeling expires XXX.

Maine File Symbol: XX-ME-XX

	<u>Percent by Weight</u>
Active Ingredient:	
0,0-Diethyl 0-(3-chloro-4-methyl-2-oxo-2H-1-benzopyran-7-yl) phosphorothioate (coumaphos) . . . . .	10%
Inert Ingredients: . . . . .	<u>90%</u>
Total . . . . .	100%

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

**WARNING**

**SEE LABELING FOR STATEMENTS OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT  
AND OTHER PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS**

NET CONTENTS: 10 Strips

Bayer HealthCare LLC  
Animal Health Division  
P.O. Box 390  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201 U.S.A.

EPA Est. Numbers: 4691-KS-1; 11556-DEU-1



**Draft**

**PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS  
HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

**WARNING**

Do not chew or swallow. Causes moderate eye irritation. Avoid contact with skin, clothing or eyes. Wash thoroughly with soap and warm water after handling. Wash contaminated clothing with soap and hot water before use.

**STATEMENTS OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT**

**If chewed or swallowed:** Call a physician or Poison Control Center immediately. If possible, vomiting should be induced under medical supervision. Drink one or two glasses of water and induce vomiting by touching the back of throat with finger. Do not induce vomiting or give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

**If on skin:** Remove contaminated clothing and wash affected areas with soap and water. Get medical attention if irritation appears.

**If in eyes:** Flush eyes with plenty of water. Call a physician immediately.

**To Physician:** Atropine sulfate by injection is antidotal. Repeat as necessary to the point of tolerance. 2-PAM is also antidotal and may be administered in conjunction with atropine.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS**

This pesticide is toxic to birds, fish and aquatic invertebrates. Do not apply directly to any body of water. Do not contaminate water when disposing of used strips.



**Draft**

### Directions for Use

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its label.

**Treatments must be applied at a time when bees are not producing a surplus honey crop. Chemical resistant gloves (water-based formulation) must be worn when handling the strips.** Just before application, remove the required number of CheckMite+ Strips from the pouch. Unused strips should remain in original package.

CheckMite+ is not recommended for use in honey bee colonies that are used as cell builders for producing queens.

Do not treat more than twice a year for varroa mites nor more than four times a year for the small hive beetle.

**For Varroa Treatment** - To control varroa mite, remove honey supers before application of CheckMite+ Strips and **do not replace any sooner than 14 days after the strips are removed.** Use one strip for each five combs of bees in each brood chamber (Langstroth deep frames or equivalent in other sizes). Hang the strips in separate spaces between the combs as near the center of the bee/brood cluster as possible. If two deep brood chambers are used for the brood nest, hang the CheckMite+ Strips in both the top and bottom brood chambers. Treat all infested colonies within the yard. The treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest. Effective control may be achieved by treating hives in the spring before the first honey flow and in the fall after the last honey flow. For maximum efficacy leave the strips in the hive for at least 42 days (six weeks). **Do not leave the strips in hive for more than 45 days. Do not treat more than twice a year for varroa mites. Do not remove honey supers any sooner than 14 days after the strips are removed.**

**For Small Hive Beetle Treatment:** To control the small hive beetle, remove honey supers before the application of CheckMite+ Strips and **do not replace any sooner than 14 days after the strips are removed.** Prepare a piece of corrugated cardboard approximately 4x4 inches by removing one side. Remove one CheckMite+ Strip. Cut strip in half crossways and staple the two pieces to the corrugated side of the cardboard. Tape over the smooth side of the cardboard (the side opposite the strips) with duct tape, shipping tape or similar tape to prevent the bees from chewing and removing the cardboard. Or use one sided plastic corrugated sheets. Place cardboard as near the center of the bottom board as possible with the strips down. Make sure the bottom board is clean and the strips lay flat on the bottom board. For maximum efficacy leave the strips in the hive for at least 42 days (six weeks). **Do not leave the strips in hive for more than 45 days. Do not treat more than four times per year for the small hive beetle. Do not remove honey supers any sooner than 14 days after the strips are removed.**



**Draft**

**Storage & Disposal:** Do not contaminate water, food or feed by storage or disposal. Keep the strips in original, unopened package until ready to use. Do not store in direct sunlight. Do not store unused strips in anything but original package. Do not store unused strips near pesticides or other chemical substances that could contaminate the strips and result in bee toxicity. Do not reuse the strips. Securely wrap the strips and/or container packaging in several layers of newspapers and dispose in a sanitary land fill.

**LIMITED WARRANTY AND  
LIMITATION OF DAMAGES**

Bayer HealthCare LLC, Animal Health Division warrants that this material conforms to the chemical description on the label. BAYER HEALTHCARE LLC MAKES NO OTHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY, INCLUDING ANY OTHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS OR MERCHANTABILITY, and no agent of Bayer HealthCare LLC is authorized to do so except in writing with a specific reference to this warranty. Any damages arising from a breach of this warranty shall be limited to direct damages and shall not include consequential commercial damages such as loss of profits or values, etc.