

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



# 257

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## Pest control chemicals and plant growth regulators — Principles for the selection of common names

*Pesticides et produits phytopharmaceutiques — Principes pour le choix des noms communs*

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO member bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

Prior to 1972, the results of the work of the technical committees were published as ISO Recommendations; these documents are in the process of being transformed into International Standards. As part of this process, Technical Committee ISO/TC 81, *Common names for pesticides*, has reviewed ISO Recommendation R 257-1971 and found it technically suitable for transformation. International Standard ISO 257 therefore replaces ISO Recommendation R 257-1971, to which it is technically identical.

ISO 257:1976  
950888c0a164/iso-257-1976

ISO Recommendation R 257 had been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Germany	Switzerland
Belgium	India	Thailand
Canada	Israel	Turkey
Colombia	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Peru	U.S.A.
Denmark	Portugal	U.S.S.R.
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	South Africa, Rep. of	Yugoslavia
Finland	Spain	
France	Sweden	

No member body had expressed disapproval of the Recommendation.

The member body of the following country disapproved the transformation of the Recommendation into an International Standard :

France

# Pest control chemicals and plant growth regulators — Principles for the selection of common names

## 1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard sets out a number of principles for the selection of common names for pest control chemicals and plant growth regulators, together with explanatory notes and examples of the application of certain of the principles.

## 2 OBJECT OF COMMON NAMES

The object of a common name is to provide a short, easily pronounced name for a compound whose full chemical name is too long and complicated, for use in commerce and in official regulations.

## 3 STYLE OF WRITING OR PRINTING COMMON NAMES

The recommended common name shall be written or printed in lower case letters (for example, **heptachlor**, **parathion**) except where national usage requires capital initial letters for nouns.

In the exceptional cases where the names are formed from initials, they shall be written in capitals without intervening full stops (for example, **MCPA**). If numerals and letters both occur in a common name, the numerals shall be separated from one another by commas and from letters by a hyphen (for example, **2,4,5-T**).

## 4 PURITY OF CHEMICALS

The common name should normally apply to the pure chemical of known structure, but in exceptional cases it may be given to a mixture of isomers in which not all the isomers may have established biological activity (for example, **BHC**).

Consideration may be given to the coining of common names for reaction products having an incompletely defined chemical composition but *not* for deliberate mixtures of active ingredients. In cases of doubt, evidence based on tests adequate for distinguishing between compounds and mixtures should be submitted with the request for a common name.

## 5 PRINCIPLES

**5.1 No compound shall be given a common name if its chemical name is reasonably short and distinctive** (for example, metaldehyde, carbon tetrachloride, ethylene oxide).

**5.2 The country of origin shall be given the first opportunity to suggest a name.**

**5.3 Common names shall be identical in all languages, subject to necessary variation in spelling, inflection, etc.**

**5.4 Common names shall be as short as is practicable.**

**5.5 Common names shall be distinctive in sound and spelling.**

**5.6 a) Common names shall, if practicable, include one or more syllables that serve as reminders of the scientific chemical name.**

Examples of suitable names are :

<b>atrazine</b>	2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-1,3,5-triazine
<b>chloropon</b>	2,2,3-trichloropropionic acid
<b>cypromid</b>	3',4'-dichlorocyclopropanecarboxanilide
<b>difenoxuron</b>	3-[4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)phenyl]-1,1-dimethylurea
<b>dinosulfon</b>	S-methyl 2-(1-methylheptyl)-4,6-dinitrophenyl thiocarbonate
<b>diuron</b>	3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea
<b>morfamquat</b>	1,1'-di-(3,5-dimethylmorpholinocarbonylmethyl)-4,4'-bipyridyldiylum ion
<b>norbormide</b>	5-( $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -2-pyridylbenzyl)-7-( $\alpha$ -2-pyridylbenzylidene)norborn-5-ene-2,3-dicarboximide
<b>trifluralin</b>	2,6-dinitro- <i>NN</i> -dipropyl-4-trifluoromethylaniline

Two consequences of the application of this principle are the desirability of developing syllables for large radicals and the importance of giving in the name a reminder of a distinctive group. Examples are :

**azinphos-methyl** S-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxobenzo[d]-[1,2,3]-triazin-3-ylmethyl) OO-dimethyl phosphorodithioate

This name suggests the presence of phosphorus and the triazinyl group, and indicates that the compound is a methyl ester.

**chlorfenvinphos** 2-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)vinyl diethyl phosphate

Chlorine, the phenyl and vinyl groups, and phosphorus are suggested by this name.

b) **Common names for organophosphorus compounds should preferably include the syllable “phos” (or “fos”).**

**5.7 Common names for salts or esters shall normally be given to the parent acid or base. The nature of a salt or ester shall be indicated by a suffix.** For example, mecoprop-potassium, diquat dichloride. Exceptions include **zineb, nabam** and most organophosphorus esters.

**5.8 Common names shall**

- a) **not be liable to confusion with commercial trade marks or common names already in use, with names used in international chemical nomenclature, or with names of foods, pharmaceutical products, etc.;**
- b) **not be difficult to pronounce or remember;**
- c) **not be composed only of initials and/or numbers;**

NOTE — In general, the formation of common names from initials and numbers has been avoided, but exceptions were

made of compounds which had become so well known by initials that another name would only cause confusion (for example, **MCPA**).

**d) not contain syllables of misleading chemical significance.**

An example would be for a coined name to end in **-ol** or **-one** and yet contain no hydroxyl or ketone group.

**5.9 A proprietary name shall not be considered as a common name unless the manufacturer has formally agreed :**

- a) **not to use it as a trade mark in any country; and**
- b) **to permit its use in all countries as a common name by giving up rights to it or by any other means conforming to national trade marks legislation.**

NOTE — It is undesirable that a proprietary name to which the owner has relinquished his rights in some countries in order to allow its adoption as an ISO common name should be retained as a proprietary name in other countries. This may, however, be acceptable in countries where there is no national standards organization selecting common names for pesticides if the purpose of retaining a registration is to prevent a third party from pre-empting a proprietary name after the owner has relinquished his rights to it. However, the owner should undertake not to oppose the use in such countries of the ISO common name identical with the proprietary name the registration of which he is retaining as a measure of guarantee.

**5.10 Common names shall not be included in national standards until it is known that conflicts with internationally registered trade marks are unlikely and that the names are likely to be acceptable to a majority of members of Technical Committee ISO/TC 81.**

**5.11 Common names submitted for consideration shall, if practicable, be in accordance with the principles contained in this International Standard.**