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Standard Terminology Relating to Pesticides¹

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absorption—a process in which one material (the absorbent) takes in and retains another (the absorbate).

acclimation period—the time necessary for an animal to adjust to the laboratory and specific test environments.

amphoteric surfactant—a surface-active agent capable of forming, in aqueous solution, either surface-active anions or surface-active cations depending on the pH.

anionic surfactant—a surface-active agent in which the active hydrophilic portion of the molecule containing the lipophilic segment forms exclusively a negative ion (anion) when placed in aqueous solution.

antifreeze—a material that lowers the freezing point of a liquid formulation.

attractant—an agent that increases the attentive frequency of an organism.

avicide—a chemical used to kill, control, or cause other adverse effects on birds.

band application—an application of a pesticide to a continuous restricted area such as in or along a crop row rather than over the entire field area.

binder—a substance used in dry formulations to produce or enhance cohesion of solid particles.

broadcast application—the distribution of a material uniformly over the entire area to be treated and not just to portions of the area.

carcinogen—an agent producing or inciting cancerous growth.

carrier—(1) a gas, liquid, or solid used to propel or transport a pesticide; (2) an organism that bears an infectious agent, but that shows no marked symptoms of the disease caused by that agent.

cidaphobia—sensitivity of target animals that increases their aversion to the high mortality within the population.

chemical repellent—any substance whose odor, taste, appearance, tactile sensation, or combination thereof produces an aversion response in the target animal.

colorant—a material used to alter the color of a formulation.

contact herbicide—a chemical that kills those plant parts with which it comes into contact.

corrosion inhibitor—a material added to a product to reduce its tendency to degrade metals.

defoliant—a chemical that causes the foliage to drop from plants.

deposit—the amount of pesticide on a unit area of surface.

dermal toxicity—the toxic effect to an organism resulting from contact of the pesticide with the skin.

diluent—a gas, liquid, or solid used to reduce the concentration of an active ingredient in the formulation or application of a pesticide.

directed application—an application to a restricted area such as a row, bed, or at the base of plants.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E35 on Pesticides, Antimicrobials, and Alternative Control Agents and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E35.22 on Pesticide Formulations and Delivery Systems.

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