Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0273-2300(15)30003-9

DOI: 10.1016/j.yrtph.2015.06.023

Reference: YRTPH 3344

To appear in: *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*

Received Date: 16 January 2015

Revised Date: 22 June 2015

Accepted Date: 23 June 2015

Please cite this article as: Laabs, V., Leake, C., Botham, P., Melching-Kollmuss, S., Regulation of non-relevant metabolites of plant protection products in drinking and groundwater in the EU: Current status and way forward, Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology (2015), doi: 10.1016/j.yrtph.2015.06.023.

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Abstract

Non-relevant metabolites are defined in the EU regulation for plant protection product authorization and a detailed definition of non-relevant metabolites is given in an EU Commission DG Sanco (now DG SANTE – Health and Food Safety) guidance document. However, in water legislation at EU and member state level non-relevant metabolites of pesticides are either not specifically regulated or diverse threshold values are applied. Based on their inherent properties, non-relevant metabolites should be regulated based on substance-specific and toxicity-based limit values in drinking and groundwater like other anthropogenic chemicals. Yet, if a general limit value for non-relevant metabolites in drinking and groundwater is favored, an application of a Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) concept for Cramer class III compounds leads to a threshold value of 4.5 µg L^{-1}. This general value is exemplarily shown to be protective for non-relevant metabolites, based on individual drinking water limit values derived for a set of 56 non-relevant metabolites. A consistent