

Common names for pesticides —

Part 1: Guide to principles for selection of common names

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- British Agrochemicals Association
- British Crop Protection Council
- British Pest Control Association
- British Pharmacopoeia Commission
- Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux
- Department of Trade and Industry (Laboratory of the Government Chemist)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Society of Chemical Industry

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Foreword

This Part of BS 1831 is a revision of certain portions of the 1969 edition of BS 1831 and has been prepared under the direction of the Chemicals Standards Committee. It describes the principles to be used in selecting common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals. This edition has been divided into Parts in order to align more closely with the corresponding International Standards developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 81, Common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals, of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). At present, two other Parts are in course of preparation, one being a schedule of the common names themselves and the other a list of compounds considered not to require common names, on the grounds that their chemical names, trivial or systematic, are considered to be suitable for commercial and other purposes.

This Part of BS 1831 is based on a draft proposal for revision of the 1976 edition of ISO 257 *"Pest-control chemicals and plant growth regulators — Principles for the selection of common names"* published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It replaces the introduction to, and recommendations (clauses 1 to 4) in, the 1969 edition of BS 1831, and also includes, as Appendix C, the key to pronunciation given on pages 11 and 12 of that edition.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This Part of BS 1831 lays down principles for coining common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals. These principles are defined for the guidance of proposers of such common names and for the operation of Technical Committee ISO/TC 81, Common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals, and its UK counterpart, Technical Committee CIC/48, Common names for pesticides.

NOTE 1 The procedure for the establishment of common names is given in Appendix A.

NOTE 2 The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Definition

For the purposes of this Part of BS 1831, the following definition applies.

common name

a name freely available for common use in identifying a chemical substance without recourse to its scientific name

3 Purpose

3.1 The purpose of a common name is to provide a short, distinctive, easily-pronounced name for a substance, the full chemical name of which is too complex for convenient use in science, commerce and official regulations.

3.2 Because a common name has to be freely available for use in describing the substance for which it has been coined, it should not be permitted to become a privately owned trade mark in respect of identical or similar goods.

3.3 In order to achieve the desired goal of creating a common name that is generally acceptable internationally, rejection of any proposed common name by individual Member Bodies of ISO [see A.2.1.3 and A.3.1.1 e)] should only be based on serious grounds and then only after every possible effort has been made to overcome the impediment to local acceptability.

4 Principles for selection

4.1 General

4.1.1 No substance should be given a common name if its chemical name is reasonably short and distinctive (for example metaldehyde, carbon tetrachloride).

4.1.2 The identity of a common name should be maintained in all languages, subject to necessary linguistic variations.

4.1.3 Common names should be as short as is practicable, but should not include single letters and/or numerals except as structural qualifiers.

NOTE While the formation of common names from initials and numerals is no longer acceptable, exceptions (for example MCPA, 2,4,5-T) have been made for substances which are so well known by such names that to use other names would cause confusion.

4.1.4 Common names should be distinctive in sound and spelling and should not be either difficult to pronounce or liable to confusion with existing names (see 4.5.1).

4.1.5 To facilitate international spelling and translation “f” instead of “ph” should be used in common names. The suffix-phenyl in the names of esters should, however, retain its normal spelling.

4.2 Salts and esters

4.2.1 Simple salts. The common name for a simple salt should be given to the parent acid or base. In the case of an acid, the complementary cation may be given as a hyphenated suffix and, in the case of a base, the complementary anion may be stated. A quaternary ammonium or phosphonium salt should be treated as a salt of a base, as in the following examples:

- a) alloxym-dim-sodium;
- b) imazalil nitrate;
- c) chlormequat chloride.

4.2.2 Simple esters. The common name for a simple ester whose biological activity depends upon the parent acid or hydroxy compound should be given to that parent. The complementary esterifying radical may be indicated as follows:

- a) mecoprop-methyl;
- b) dinoseb acetate.

4.2.3 Complex esters and salts. If neither moiety of an ester or salt is simple, the common name should be given to the whole molecule, as in the following examples:

- a) bupirimate;
- b) decafentin.

4.3 Purity of chemicals

Although common names should be given to chemical entities of known structure, in exceptional cases they may be given to mixtures the composition of which is constant for all practical purposes and of which the concentrations of active components can be specified.

Such exceptional cases may include the following:

- a) a reaction product mixture, provided that the concentrations of the main active components fall within acceptable limits for specified proportions;
- b) a polymeric reaction product mixture, provided that the proportions of the main active component polymers (the repeating units of which are specified) in the reaction mixture are known and are constant within acceptable limits;