The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) was passed in August of 1996. The primary intent was to ensure that pesticides do not pose unreasonable risks to the diets of infants and children. EPA has now been implementing the regulations for over five years. FDA and USDA have largely been relegated to the sidelines. The vast majority of EPA’s regulatory effort has been extended toward the organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. Many other products have been reviewed accordingly to FQPA guidelines during the normal course of reregistration. Over half of the tolerances have been assessed under FQPA via the reregistration guidelines and with little or no changes to their status. The focus will largely remain on the organophosphate and carbamate insecticides for the next year. Other groups such as the pyrethroid insecticides are just starting the review process now.

Of the 40 or so organophosphate, only a single active ingredient has been canceled, Oftanol. This product was more likely a victim of declining market share than FQPA. At this point, no OP or carbamate pesticide appears likely to be canceled. Virtually no use pattern has been restricted due to dietary risk. The phrase “risk cup” is no longer such a critical thought, since it is now known that OPs and carbamates pose minimal dietary risks. No use pattern has been restricted because it has been shown to pose any special risk to infants and children. No restrictions of consequence have been placed on products due to environmental concerns.

Currently, the primary reason that products are facing regulatory scrutiny has been due to mixer, loader, applicator, worker exposure, something not covered under FQPA. Mocap, Thimet, Monitor, Guthion, Di-Syston and other products are facing significant restrictions on critical use patterns due to worker protection concerns.

Guthion is facing cancellations on several crops, Di-Syston will be canceled on several crops. These products as well as several other OPs and carbamates will have severe restrictions placed on their use in the name of FQPA for reasons completely unrelated to FQPA. The primary means that products are going to be restricted under the guise of FQPA will be increased restricted entry intervals, increase personal protective equipment and use pattern cancellations because of the potential for worker exposure.