

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2003 9:07 AM
Subject: BAD BOY REPORT: PESTICIDE IN BOTTLED WATERS

Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine with special attention to Members of Aquathin Europe and Aquathin Las Americas;

Chlorpyrifos (and its other labeled cousins) is an extremely toxic pesticide that can cause damage to fetus via DNA mutating. You will see in this quick read, that some pretty famous named bottlers have left this contaminate off their "nutritional ingredients listing" ! You will also read the problem persists in most of the water ways here in the U.S.

What is amazing is that chlorpyrifos is readily removed with GAC. You may wonder why this technology was not incorporated into the process, knowing the reputation of these famous bottlers. Well, one reason I can tell you, having traveled extensively into second and third world nations and visiting facilities of well known brands, often there is more money to be made by leveraging the brand than in providing quality. That's the stuff that makes the Bad Boy Report.

Warmest regards to all,

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Bottled Water Companies Serve Up Chemical Cocktail

Fri Feb 14, 8:18 AM ET

Sonu Jain, [OneWorld South Asia](#)

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (OWSA) – An investigation by New Delhi based NGO Center for Science and Environment (CSE), reported that 28 out of 34 samples of bottled water sold in India by, among others, beverage giants Coca Cola and Pepsi, contained traces of Chlorpyrifos, an insecticide said to produce malformation in fetuses, which the United States based Environment Protection Agency (EPA) was trying to phase out by 2005.

The report claimed the majority of the 17 brands of bottled water sold here, including popular domestic brand 'Bisleri', contained 100 times more residue than European Economic Commission (EEC) standards. The report named the biggest offender in this regard as multinational Coca Cola's well-known 'Kinley', which exceeded EEC standards by 109 times. Pepsi's 'Aquafina' also exceeded standards by 23 times.

The report said on an average, all 17 brands exceeded EEC standards by 49 times. For their part, the companies maintained their products had been cleared by India's apex quality control organization, the Bureau of Indian Standards.

In 2000, Chlorpyrifos was voluntarily withdrawn from most indoor and pest uses by manufacturer DowElanco in the U.S. But it is still widely marketed there under the brand names of Dursban and Lorsban.

Within ten years of being cleared for domestic use in India, Chlorpyrifos, a compound primarily used to control termites, cockroaches and white ants in urban areas, had apparently seeped into underground aquifers, which were resistant to purification methods used by the country's major bottled water companies.

Experts felt the presence of chlorpyrifos in water was unusual for it was considered only " mildly " soluble.

But a scientist with the Indian Agriculture Research Institute's chemical and pesticide department, M. Gopal said that, " Its solubility is 1.4 mg per liter, which means it is likely it would percolate with rainwater to the ground-water level."

Chlorpyrifos is a neuroteratogen, an agent that caused malformation in fetuses by inhibiting the DNA synthesis. It is a chemical that created physical or functional defects in wombs during pregnancy.

The EPA had reportedly requested public comment on mitigation due to the recent agreement between them and the registrants of Chlorpyrifos.

According to a 1999 report by the U.S Geological Survey, titled, 'The Quality of Our Nation's Waters', Chlorpyrifos was the third most frequently detected insecticide in streams in urban areas. According to the EPA, action taken to curb the urban use of this pesticide would significantly improve urban stream quality, minimizing the risk to fish and other aquatic life.

Oblivious to these dangers, in India, demand for Chlorpyrifos marketed under various brand names, spiraled from 1,400 metric tons in 1995-96 to 7,500 metric tons in 1999-2000. According to unofficial estimates, nearly 70 per cent of the insecticide was used in urban areas.

According to the Central Insecticide Board, the country's apex body handling clearance of pesticides, 100 manufacturers in the country had been approved for producing formulations of the harmful chemical.

It was the sheer volumes used that were causing the damage. The pesticide was liberally sprinkled over the foundation of houses during construction, some ten times more than prescribed norms.

While sometimes injected by drilling a hole in the building's foundation, at other times, the pesticide was also carelessly sprayed onto the woodwork by pest control companies, which abound in Indian cities.

Interestingly, it was also one of the chemical ingredients used in anti-tick collars on dogs.

According to chemical scientist with the Indraprastha University, Adarsh Kumar, there were strong chances of the pesticide contaminating the groundwater beneath the house.

As he informed, " If the soil is sandy, it will seep to the ground-water table where it remains in the soil for 10-100 days before breaking into harmless compounds."

Sonu Jain works with Indian daily, The Indian Express