Public Announcement from the Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Application System Task Force, LLC (UAPASTF)

July 28, 2025

Global Pesticide Industry Drone Task Force Submits First GLP UASS Drift Studies to the U.S. EPA, Canadian PMRA, Australian APVMA, and United Kingdom HSE CRD

The global Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Application System Task Force, L.L.C. (UAPASTF) is pleased to announce the first-ever data submissions of Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) spray drift field trials using unmanned aerial spray systems (UASS) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Health Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Australia's Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), and the United Kingdom's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD). UAPASTF's 2025 submissions represent an important milestone for the industry-wide Task Force, which was formed in December 2021 by pesticide manufacturing companies that are jointly developing data to support the use of UASS for pesticide applications globally. UAPASTF anticipates continued engagement with additional regulatory agencies and stakeholder groups over the coming months. Additional data submissions are expected since this first submission represents just one year of studies (2023). Additional work of the UAPASTF is focused on developing best practice guidance (here and here), providing guidance for spray drift trials (here), and informing estimates for non-dietary (i.e. occupational) exposure.

Emerging technologies such as UASS are being adopted at a rapid pace in agricultural and other pesticide applications worldwide. The data required to effectively regulate the use of UASS must be gathered to position these relative to other conventional pesticide application technologies in agriculture. UASS must be integrated into regulatory processes as an additional option for pesticide applicators, enabling the technology to meet its full potential and deliver precision agriculture, targeted pesticide application, and sustainability goals while protecting human health and the environment.

The UAPASTF's mission is to share resources in the design, evaluation, and development of proprietary data for use in exposure estimates, regulatory drift models, risk assessments, and regulatory decisions. The UAPASTF was formed in part to respond to the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Pesticides (WPP) Drone/Unmanned Aerial Spray Systems Subgroup (ODSG). Because the guidance of the ODSG is critical internationally, alignment with its work is important to achieving the UAPASTF's goals, which include:

1) Characterizing off-site movement and spray drift potential of UASS-based applications alongside established conventional application methods (i.e., aerial or ground sprayers);
2) Evaluating occupational and residential exposures from use of UASS for pesticide applications; and
3) Characterizing crop residues from UASS-based applications alongside conventional methods.

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The UAPASTF's work product is proprietary to its members, and the UAPASTF retains all rights in the data. In the future, when UAPASTF studies are relied upon by applicants or registrants to satisfy pesticide regulatory requirements of any nation's regulatory authority to which the Task Force has submitted data, they must either be members of the UAPASTF or offer to pay compensation to the UAPASTF for their reliance upon the Task Force's data as provided under applicable law.

The UAPASTF welcomes new members to join the Task Force, given the importance and significance of the work it is doing to enhance the options for administering pesticides in a safe and efficient manner. Any pesticide applicant or registrant who desires to add UASS application methods to their own product labels is welcome to join the Task Force's efforts. The member companies of UAPASTF will have the right on a worldwide basis to rely upon Task Force data for purposes of registering pesticides, maintaining and defending pesticide registrations, and protecting exclusive use and data compensation rights.

If a non-member applicant or registrant wishes to seek approval to add UASS application methods to any product label, it may (a) join the UAPASTF; (b) cite to the UAPASTF's work and pay compensation to the UAPASTF for reliance on such data in accordance with FIFRA sections 3(c)(1)(F) and 3(c)(2)(B) and the analogous provisions of other nation's rules and regulations; or (c) submit its own information that is of sufficient quality to meet regulatory requirements.

Applicants and registrants should be aware that UAPASTF is developing its study program as an integrated whole. Any decision to simply cite the Task Force's data and offer to pay compensation must extend to all related studies. In accordance with FIFRA and where applicable other nations' rules and regulations, in the event that the UAPASTF and a non-member who cites to the UAPASTF's work are unable to reach a cost-sharing agreement, the terms and amounts of compensation shall be determined by arbitration, as provided, for example in the United States, in sections 3(c)(1)(F) and 3(c)(2)(B) of FIFRA.

Those desiring more information about the UAPASTF, including membership terms, may visit the UAPASTF website (https://uapastf.com/) or contact:

Alan Sachs and Harold Himmelman, UAPASTF Counsel
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. (202) 789-6049

Travis Bui, Chair of the UAPASTF Administrative Committee
Corteva Agriscience (317) 431-7892

Rhonda Bichsel, UAPASTF Administrative Manager
(660) 621-4237