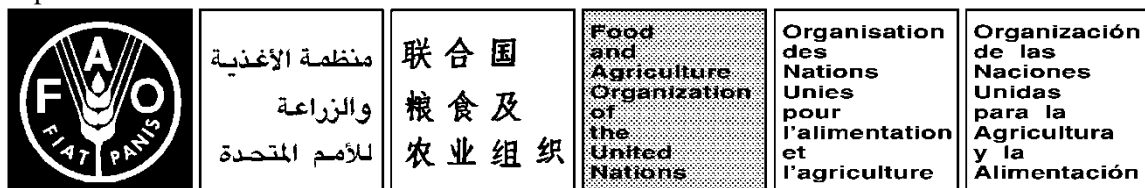


September 2015



**ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION
COMMISSION**

**TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT
PROTECTION COMMISSION (APPPC)**

BALI, INDONESIA, 7 – 11 September 2015

AGENDA NO. 3

Country Report

Philippines

PHILIPPINES COUNTRY REPORT
29TH SESSION OF THE APPPC
7-11 September 2015
Bali, Indonesia

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is the Philippine National Plant Protection Organization. One of its primary functions is crop protection. This BPI function is being implemented by the Crop Pest Management Division (CPMD) formerly the Crop Protection Division and the Plant Quarantine Service presently named the National Plant Quarantine Services Division (NPQSD) under the approved Rationalization Plan of the government.

The major functions of the CPMD are the implementation of sustainable biological control technologies, generation of pest management strategies and improvement of crop protection technologies adapted for the local farmers. It also provides technical assistance, coordination, and where necessary, supervision over regional facilities, e.g. Regional Crop Protection Centers (RCPCs) and surveillance and early warning system (SEWS).

CPMD provides facilities for plant pests and disease diagnosis, mass production and rearing of biological agents for field distribution, training for crop protection staff and extension agents, and proper evaluation of national programs and projects on crop protection. It works in tandem with the NPQSD since it supervises and evaluates researches and other development projects on exotic pests of special national considerations and acts as central monitoring arm and repository of regional pest data information.

The Philippine Plant Quarantine is being enforced by the BPI-NPQSD by virtue of **PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1433** otherwise known as the **Plant Quarantine Law of 1978 as amended by EO 292**. It is mandated to safeguard Philippine Agriculture from the risk associated with the entry of exotic pest into the country, prevent further spread of plant pests already existing in the country and enforce phytosanitary measures for the export of plants/plant products and regulated articles to meet the importing country's requirements.

The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) manages the implementation of the SPS Agreement. The DA Policy Research Service (PRS) is the SPS Notification Authority and Enquiry Point. SPS measures are implemented through the DA regulatory agencies which are responsible over animal and plant health protection. The BPI is responsible for SPS measures related to plant health. It conducts pest risk analysis, issues phytosanitary certificates and implements measures regulating international and domestic movement of plants and plant products. It maintains the country's pesticide residue analysis laboratories under the Plant Product Safety Services Division.

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) was transferred to the Office of the President under the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) since May 5, 2014 under EO No. 165. FPA is responsible for implementation of international pesticide conventions. It is also responsible in establishing and enforcing maximum residue limits for pesticides in local and imported raw agricultural commodities. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides is based on standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It is the FPA's mandate to assure adequate, safe and affordable supply of fertilizers and pesticides, rationalize the manufacture and marketing of fertilizer, protect the public from risks inherent to pesticides and educate the agricultural sector on the proper use of these inputs. Strategic thrusts for the year 2015 include (1) Fertilizer and

Pesticide Regulation (2) Education/Product Stewardship (3) Harmonizing with international standards on labeling and (4) Good Governance has been of their strategic thrusts.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The National Plant Quarantine Services Division (NPQSD) is continuously developing and upgrading the technical capacities of Plant Quarantine personnel nationwide through active participation in the local trainings. During the calendar year 2013-2014 the following were conducted: Sectoral Workshop on Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures, Workshop on the Implementation of Banana Export to Continental USA, IPP Portal Training for Plant Quarantine, PRA Training Workshop, Eco fume Training Seminar/ Workshop, Annual Review on mango & papaya export program, 2013 Quarantine Regulators Meeting, Refresher Course on Tagging of Approved SPS Import Clearance (SPSIC), Geo-tagging Training for Okra, Sectoral Workshop for Plant Quarantine, PQS Mid-year and Year End Review & Planning Workshop, Briefing on the New Accounting Standards and New Chart of Account Workshop on Strategic Performance Management System.

On top of these trainings/workshops which were organized and funded with local and international support, PQS personnel attended about forty (40) international trainings/workshops/conferences/meetings conducted abroad.

Moreover, as part of PQS' focus of providing efficient and effective service to its clientele, the following physical facilities were constructed/established, renovated:

PQS buildings of South HARBOR Manila, Port of Cebu, Port of Legaspi and Port of Cagayan were constructed and BPI-PQS Disposal facility was renovated to prevent the spread of pest and diseases.

PLANT QUARANTINE POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED

In order to guarantee efficient and effective operation of PQ activities, respond to reports of pest outbreaks and ensure compliance with the provisions of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) of the IPPC, Plant Quarantine policies, rules regulations and protocols were formulated and/or amended by the BPI.

For 2013, the following PQ policies, rules regulations and protocols were formulated and/or amended by the Technical Working Group on Quarantine:

- **DA Administrative Order No. 03, series of 2013** “Regulating the importation of rubber (*Hevea* sp.) plants and parts thereof such as seed, stumps, bud sticks, etc., from South American Leaf Blight (SALB) endemic countries in order to prevent the introduction into the Philippines, the South American Leaf Blight of Rubber, a disease caused by *Microcyclus ulei* syn. *Dothidella ulei*, except for certain purposes and other certain conditions”
- **BPI Special Quarantine Order No. 01, series of 2013** “Formally Declaring a Coconut Scale Insect (CSI) Outbreak in Coconut Trees in some Municipalities and Cities in the Provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite and Quezon Due to an Infestation of an Undetermined *Aspidiotus* sp. and Providing Measures to Regulate and Prevent Its Spread”.
- **BPI Special Quarantine Order No. 01, series of 2013** “Rules and Regulations on the Movement, Transfer and Carrying Citrus Plants and Planting Materials Nationwide and Providing for Regulatory Measures to Prevent the Spread of Probable Strains of Insect Borne and Bud Transmissible Diseases Thereby Allowing the Revival of Citrus Industry in Suitable Area”

- **Memorandum Circular No.01, series of 2013** “Protocol on the Export of Fresh Pineapple Fruits”
- **DA Administrative Circular No. 01, series of 2013** “Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Fresh Paprika (*Capsicum annuum* L.) from Jeju Island, Republic of Korea into the Philippines”
- **DA Administrative Circular No. 09, series of 2013** “Expanding the Coverage of DA Administrative Circular No.1, series of 2013 “Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Fresh Paprika (*Capsicum annuum* L.) from Jeju Island, Republic of Korea into the Philippines” to include not only Jeju Island but the Whole Republic of Korea

In 2014, PQS reconstituted the Plant Quarantine Board . Crafted PQ policies, rules, regulations and protocols are presented to the Board, consulted to different stakeholders and then endorsed to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture for approval.

The following PQ policies, rules and regulations were approved by the Secretary and published in newspapers:

- **DA Administrative Circular No. 02 Series of 2014** “Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Fresh Vegetables (Celery, Lettuce and Crucifers) from The United States of America (USA)
- **BPI Special Quarantine Order No. 01 Series of 2014** “Declaring Severe Infestation of *Aspidiotus* spp. and *Unaspis* sp.in Mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) and Lanzones (*Lansium domesticum*), respectively, Including Other Scale Insects Affecting Other Plants in the Coconut Scale Insect (CSI) Outbreak Areas of Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and Quezon and Providing Measures To Manage Its Spread From Infested to Non Infested Area”
- **Rules and Regulations to Implement BPI Special Quarantine Order No. 01 Series of 2014** “Declaring Severe Infestation of *Aspidiotus* spp. and *Unaspis* sp.in Mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) and Lanzones (*Lansium domesticum*), respectively, Including Other Scale Insects Affecting Other Plants in the Coconut Scale Insect (CSI) Outbreak Areas of Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and Quezon and Providing Measures To Manage Its Spread From Infested to Non Infested Area”
- **BPI Plant Quarantine Circular No. 1 Series of 2014** “Guidelines on the Importation of Fresh Garlic and Onion for Consumption”
- **DA Quarantine Administrative Circular No. 01 Series of 2014** “Guidelines For Categorization of Commodities of Plant Origin”
- **DA Quarantine Administrative Circular No. 06 Series of 2014** “Declaring the Whole Philippines As Area Free From Mango Seed Weevil (MSW) *Sternochetus mangiferae* Fabr. and Except For Palawan, Area Freedom From Mango Pulp Weevil (MPW) *Sternochetus frigidus* Fabr. and Prohibiting Importation From Countries Where The Pests Exist”

Two DA Administrative Circulars namely: 1) Plant Quarantine Service Regulatory Fees and 2) Guidelines on the Importation of Plants, Planting Materials And Plant Products for Commercial Purposes were drafted by PQS and are in the process of finalization.

UPDATES ON MARKET ACCESS REQUEST

Philippines Request for Market Access to Export Fruits & Vegetables

- **Banana to Continental U.S. A.**

Initial commercial export of Philippine bananas to Continental US was shipped to San Diego, California on August 20, 2013. A total of 486 cartons (6.561 MT) of highland Cavendish Dole Sweet bananas sourced from Bukidnon were consigned to Dole Fresh Fruit Co. After 23 days of sailing via Mell Seringat VO25w the Bananas arrived on September 9, 2013. These were then delivered to large retailers including the giant supermarket chain Albertson's and specialty stores Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

- **Mango to Australia**

The Special Commodity of Understanding for the Importation to Australia of fresh mango fruit from Guimaras Island, Samal Island and the province of Davao del Sur Mindanao Island, Philippines was officially signed last July 9, 2013. The signing was held during the Philippines Australia Agriculture Forum at Canberra, Australia.

Initial commercial export mango to Australia coming from Davao del Sur and Samal Island started on June 8, 2013. A total of 4,765 kgs (4.765 MT) were exported to Melbourne, Adelaide, Australia via air cargo from June to July 2013 coming from Davao del Sur and Samal Island.

- **Mango to USA**

In October 2014, USDA has issued the US Final Rule on the Philippine's Area Freedom from MPW except Palawan and MSW and Approval of Irradiation Dose of 165 Gy (gray) as a quarantine treatment for MPW. The said rule means expansion of the source of mangoes for export from Guimaras Island to the whole Philippines and phytosanitary treatment to address MPW. Market access to the US could also attract other countries to source out mangoes from the Philippines. This could result to more investment in the mango sector. Supply of mangoes for export will be all year-round because mango season in Luzon is from January to June while Visayas and Mindanao is from July to December. This will increase the volume of export of mangoes to the US and other member countries requiring pest area freedom.

- **Banana to Guam, Hawaii & Marianas Island**

USDA has also issued the US Final Rule for Philippine banana to Hawaii, Guam and Northern Marianas (October 1, 2014). This rule means that the Philippines can now export banana to the said US destinations.

- **Banana, shallots and pineapple Export to Indonesia**

The Philippines raised concerns on their application for Food Safety System Recognition for bananas, shallots and pineapples to enter the Indonesian market, through the Port of Tanjung Priok. The Philippines informed that all requirements have been officially submitted to the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency from November 2012 to August 2014. In addition, the Philippines also informed during the meeting on the fact that the Philippine banana has been free from Xanthomonas wilt diseases and their successful control Banana Bract Mosaic Virus.

Responding to the concerns of the Philippines, Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to facilitate this issue and briefly informed the meeting on the principal requirement based on the Indonesian national regulation on food trade and safety.

In addition, Indonesia informed that the importers should submit their import plan for the 15 commodities as mentioned in MOA regulation no. 86/2013 which includes bananas, pineapples and shallots to Ministry of Trade which in turn submits it to the Ministry of Agriculture for recommendation. It is noted that during the high season, importers will not plan for any importations and vice versa.

Indonesia informed that they have assessed the Philippine application for food safety system recognition. Indonesia has concluded that the Philippines needs the following additional information:

1. Procedure of monitoring and surveillance for food safety
2. Official report of National Monitoring for pesticide residue, heavy metal and Mycotoxin (last 2 years)
3. List of procedures for pineapple which implemented GAP list of packing house for pineapple and shallot which implemented GHP
4. Example of GAP and GHP certificate for banana and pineapple

Especially for banana, Indonesia requires some information relating to pest and disease such as:

1. The result of data of surveillance for Xanthomonas wilt disease and banana bract mosaic virus (last 3 years)
2. Management control of both pest and disease including insect vector for banana bract mosaic virus.

- **Export of plant products to Vietnam**

PQS has successfully contributed in its facilitation of the market access request for the entry of Philippine plant products to the Vietnamese market. After three years of applying for accreditation to export plant products to Vietnam, the Philippines is finally accredited and allowed to transport fresh, processed fruits and other products of plant origin that meet Vietnam's food safety control system standards to the Vietnamese market. Exporters of fresh and processed fruits to Vietnam will benefit from this new market access. Access to the Vietnamese market could further boost our competitive advantage in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) market 2015, and serve as springboard for other opportunities for other opportunities for the Philippine agricultural sector in the international arena.

According to Ana Abejuela, Special Agriculture Representative of the Philippine Embassy in Thailand, this has been a worthwhile effort and commended and congratulated the Plant Quarantine Service of BPI for working diligently to realize **this milestone**.

SURVEILLANCE, PEST OUTBREAKS AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT/PEST MANAGEMENT

1. Changes in National strategy, Organization, Legislation and Regulations since 2013

The renaming of the Crop Protection Division (CPD) with the approval of the Bureau of Plant Industry's (BPI) Rationalization Plan into Crop Pest Management Division (CPMD) is considered to be more reflective of the "pest management-oriented" activities (i.e. pest surveillance, monitoring and advisory/early warning) undertaken by this unit relative to crop protection.

It shall have three (3) sections, as follows:

- *Pest Forecasting Section to (a) conduct pest monitoring, (b) analyse pest incidence*

reports and issue pest advisory, (c) conduct post-border pest surveillance, and (d) undertake ecological pests assessment

- Bio-control and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Section to (a) mass produce, maintain, screen, distribute and assess the effectiveness of bio-control agents, (b) provide direction in the establishment of sustainable bio-control agents production systems in communities, (c) undertake field verification of IPM activities, and (d) conduct assessment of RCPCs and the network of bio-control laboratories; and
- Plant Health and Pest Status Section to (a) provide national plant health status, (b) develop and maintain a repository of pest data, specimen-based pest list and other crop protection information, and (c) determine and report the status of pest incidence and resistance (i.e., invasive, outbreak or epidemic).

2. **Pest Surveillance Activities**

The Crop Protection Division in coordination with the Regional Crop Protection Centers (RCPC) and concerned Regional Field Offices (RFOs) conducted pest monitoring and surveillance in 16 regions of the country. Insect pests and diseases of significant importance like armyworm, coconut and lanzones scale insects, rodent, rice black bug, rice grain bug, bacterial leaf blight, Tungro and many more were observed in almost all regions.

Pest reports were also received from the different regions. Based on the submitted reports, rodent, rice black bug, rice bug, rice grain bug, golden apple snail, leaf folder, stem borer, green leaf hopper, rice blast, tungro, bacterial leaf blight, bacterial streak, brown spot, and sheath rot were observed in rice; corn borer, armyworm, cutworm, corn plant hopper, leaf rust, downy mildew, and stalk rot were observed in corn; scale insect in coconut and lanzones, witches' broom of cassava, Fusarium wilt and bugtok on banana, cecid fly, thrips, and plant hopper on mango.

Mango cecid fly was reported in Region 1 last June affecting 20 barangays of the 6 infested municipalities of Ilocos Norte, 10 barangays of the 3 affected municipalities of Ilocos Sur, 2 barangays of the 2 affected municipalities of La Union, and 17 municipalities of Pangasinan. Also, the said pest was also affecting the mango production of Regions 3, 7 and CARAGA. Region 7 reduces the impact of the infestation through early bagging.

For the years 2014 and 2015, a total of 280 hectares of cassava were reported to be infected with cassava witches' broom from Regions 9 in 2013 and Regions 9 and 8 in 2014.

Based on the survey conducted by Vasquez (2015), witches' broom disease is already present in all regions with varying degrees of incidence and severity. The hotspot areas include Bukidnon, Lanao, Palawan, Bohol and Camotes Island while Isabela, Leyte and CARAGA are also found heavily infected with witches' broom. The disease is also found endemic in mainland Palawan, Samar, Leyte, Camotes Island, Bohol, Albay, Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Tawi-Tawi, Dinagat Island and Socorro, Surigao del Norte. It infects native varieties GY and Kapolotan. Other varieties such as Dali-dali and other unknown varieties are also infected particularly in Tawi-tawi and Araceli, Palawan. There were also reports from regional crop protection counterparts in CARAGA, Region 5 and Region 9 of witches' broom disease on cassava.

3. **Outbreaks and Control of Specific Pest**

A. **Coconut Scale Insect**

The massive coconut scale insect (CSI) infestation that is posing a serious threat to the coconut industry is a major concern of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) as lead agency in the coconut industry development.

Through the initiative of Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) and PCA, the Task Force SAGIP, an inter-agency task force on CSI Infestation comprising of PCA, DOST, DA, UPLB, DOST, DILG and PNP, was formed. These unified efforts and strategic operations are geared towards being prepared and committed to combat the devastating pest infestation.

*On June 5, 2014 President Benigno Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 169, establishing emergency measures to control and manage the spread and damage of coconut scale insect (*Aspidiotus rigidus*) in the Philippines and designating PCA as the lead agency for the purpose.*

The degree of the spread of the insect pest gave the task force the impetus to move fast in finding solutions and in creating a new horizon from the present situation of the coconut plantations in CALABARZON and other parts of the country.

Various R and D activities and other pro-active actions were undertaken, biosecurity measures crafted, and quarantine policies were formulated and implemented designed to reduce the CSI infestation into a manageable level.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 169 - ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CONTROL AND MANAGE THE SPREAD AND DAMAGE OF ASPIDIOTUS RIGIDUS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND DESIGNATING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), in cooperation with the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB) and National Crop Protection Center (NCPC), with the support of the appropriate Local Government Units (LGUs), shall formulate and prescribe the necessary and appropriate emergency measures and methodologies in the treatment of infested coconut trees and other host plants, which may include mechanical, chemical, and biological measures, as well as the declaration of infested areas to be under quarantine and the establishment of checkpoints and quarantine stations to prevent the transportation of unprocessed/untreated parts of coconuts, coconut seedlings and other host/vector plants from such areas.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) may deputize PCA and the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement offices to investigate and apprehend those caught violating the emergency and quarantine measures, including the confiscation of unprocessed/untreated parts of coconut, coco seedlings and seed nuts, and other host/vector plants (www.gov.ph/2014/06/05/executive-order-no-169-s-2014).

B. Cassava Witches' Broom

Due to reports of cassava phytoplasma disease affecting many regions of the country, the BPI Director issued the BPI Memorandum Order No. 39 series of 2015 – Creation of a Technical Working Group on BPI's Action Plan for Cassava Infestation, Infection and Prevention to Address the Prevalence of Witches' Broom and Other Major Pests.

C. Rice Black Bug

The province of Bulacan in Region 3 reported rice black bug infestation. Nineteen barangays were affected by the rice black bug outbreak. Their affected area reached to a total of 383 hectares.

4. PEST MANAGEMENT

*.The Crop Protection Division now Crop Pest Management Division is mandated to mass produce *Chilocorus nigrita* and *Telsimia nitida* to help the Philippine Coconut Authority minimize the heavy infestation of scale insects particularly in the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite and Quezon Province on their coconut, lanzones, and mangosteen trees.*

Evaluation and monitoring of the different biological control laboratories were done by the team of technical staff of the Division. Fifteen (15) regions were evaluated. They also provided mass production updates and quality control was given emphasis to ensure the purity of the biological control agents being distributed by the regions to their clientele.

*A total of 1,515 bags of *Metarhizium* were distributed in Regions 1, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 7, and 9 due to rice black bug infestation. Regular distribution of pure culture was given to all RCPC for their mass production purposes. One thousand two hundred ninety five (1,295) bags of *Trichoderma* were also distributed to clientele from Region 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and NCR (Metro Manila). For *Trichogramma evanescens* and *T. chilonis*, distribution was 110 g and 86 g, respectively. Nine thousand five hundred sixty nine (9,569) lacewing and eight thousand one hundred sixty five (8,165) earwig were also distributed to clientele in Regions 4A and 4B.*

*The Division distributed 8,897 and 8,850 larvae/adults of *Chilocorus* and *Telsimia* respectively from January to December 2014 in Region 4A, 4B, 8, 9 and 12. Most of these predators were released on coconut and lanzones trees due to scale insect infestation.*

PAMS AS CROP PROTECTION STRATEGY

PREVENTION- *keeping pests from infesting the country/site (ex. sanitation, use of pest-free seeds and seedlings, cleaning farm equipment between fields, irrigation scheduling to prevent disease dev., preventing weed reproduction etc.)*

AVOIDANCE- *reducing/containing impacts of pests that are already present in the country/site through cultural practice (ex. Crop rotation, use of resistant cultivars, use of cultivars which maturity doesn't coincide with high pest population, plant trap crops, use pheromones, avoid making crops attractive to pests, avoid cropping practice that increase potential to pests losses etc.)*

MONITORING- *identification and pest severity determination of thresholds and suppressive actions (ex. Pest scouting, pest survey using traps nets etc., identify pests using identification guides, diagnostic tools, labs, use weather-based pest development and risk models, determine status and trends in pests risks and severity etc.)*

SUPPRESSION- *prevention of economic losses due to pest incidence if prevention & avoidance are not sufficient by cultural, biological, physical and chemical. Note use of chemical should be economically justified with maximum precision to avoid in and off losses and development of resistance.*

5. PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT

Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority (FPA), is responsible for overseeing fertilizer and pesticide production in the Philippines and regulating imports from other countries, protecting the public and informing and informing them about the dangers and risks of using fertilizers and pesticides and educating the agricultural sector about the proper use of these implements.

POLICY GUIDELINES ON BIORATIONAL PESTICIDES

Biorational pesticides are a distinct group, inherently different from conventional pesticides. They are comprised of two major categories: the biochemical pest control agents (e.g. pheromones, hormones, natural plant growth regulators and enzymes) and the microbial pest control agents (e.g. microorganisms). Pesticides to be included in these categories must be naturally occurring, or if man synthesizes the chemical, then it must be structurally identical to a naturally occurring chemical. Minor differences between the stereochemical isomer ratios (found in the naturally occurring compound compared to the synthetic compound) will normally not rule out a chemical being classified as a biorational unless an isomer is found to have significantly different toxicological properties from those of another isomer.