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**Response to Effect of Proposed Mancozeb Mitigation Measures in California on Processing Tomatoes**

Date: August 2, 2005

To: [Rich Michell](#)  
Plant Pathologist-Nematologist  
USEPA, OPP, BEAD (7503C)  
Phone: (703) 308-8119  
Fax: (703) 308-8091

CC: [Rick Melnicoe](#)  
WIPMC director

From: [Charles J. Rivara](#)  
Director  
California Tomato Research Institute, Inc.

Subject: [Response to Effect of Proposed Mitigation Measures in California on Processing Tomatoes](#)

Dear Mr. Michell,

I was contacted this afternoon by Rick Melnicoe of the Western Integrated Pest Management Center regarding Mancozeb re-entry interval (REI) lengthening. I work for the processing tomato industry in California and my remarks are limited to the processing crop only, not the fresh market industry.

Mancozeb HAD been primarily used as a preharvest fungicide for ripe fruit molds. With the change in labeling a few years ago it is now mostly used as a synergist for copper in bacterial disease treatments. The use of mancozeb has become critical since we have recently lost genetic resistance to the the primary bacterial disease, *Pseudomonas syringae*, pv tomato. AKA bacterial speck. This past season many fields were severely damaged due to the copper resistant strains of this new race1 speck.

I reference the old preharvest use as a longer REI would not be an issue for that use. The current use is early and mid-season in the crop cycle making irrigator re-entry very important. To enable ground sprayer access, irrigations are delayed thus necessitating an immediate post treatment irrigation. We have been looking for better efficacy alternatives to copper/mancozeb, but have not found any to date. If we could keep irrigators on the old REI that would be workable for this critical use.

I will be out of the office until Monday Aug 8, and am happy to work with you further on this subject.

Chuck

[Charles J. Rivara](#)  
Director  
California Tomato Research Institute, Inc.

Phone: (209) 838-1594  
Fax: (209) 838-1595