

Title Legislative and regulatory actions affecting insect pest management for postharvest systems in the United States.

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### **Abstract**

The 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) has resulted in policy interpretations and regulatory decisions that have severely impacted insect-pest-management programmes for stored products in the United States. The food safety aspects of this law, especially as targeted to children and other vulnerable subgroups of the population, require additional toxicological data for many older traditional insecticides. Many of these insecticides, particularly organophosphates and carbamates, are being removed from the market, and there are few potential new registrations to replace the products that are lost through regulatory decisions or voluntary withdrawal. Consumer preferences for foods with little or no pesticide residues, modern residue-detection methods, an emphasis on safety and food quality, and an increasingly urbanized society are also contributing to a decline in the use of pesticide chemicals to control insects. Similar trends are occurring throughout Europe and most other developed countries, and are causing a shift from chemical-based control methods to a more integrated approach to pest management.