

# ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

## ISO RECOMMENDATION R 257

PRINCIPLES FOR THE SELECTION OF COMMON NAMES  
FOR PEST CONTROL CHEMICALS AND PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

2nd EDITION

May 1971

This second edition supersedes the first edition

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## BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 257, *Principles for the selection of common names for pesticides*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 81, *Common names for pesticides*, the Secretariat of which is held by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1955 and led to the adoption of Draft ISO Recommendation No. 366, which was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry in May 1960. It was approved by 24 Member Bodies. One Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft : Italy.

This Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided in 1962 to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

## BRIEF HISTORY RELATING TO THE SECOND EDITION

Technical Committee ISO/TC 81 undertook the revision of ISO Recommendation R 257-1962 in order to incorporate new principles and explanatory notes. This work led to the adoption of Draft ISO Recommendation No. 1613, which was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry in June 1968. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies :

Australia	India	Thailand
Belgium	Israel	Turkey
Canada	Netherlands	U.A.R.
Colombia	Peru	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Portugal	U.S.A.
Denmark	South Africa, Rep. of	U.S.S.R.
Finland	Spain	Yugoslavia
France	Sweden	
Germany	Switzerland	

No Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft.

This Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided to accept it as the second edition of ISO Recommendation R 257, the title of which is modified to read as follows : *Principles for the selection of common names for pest control chemicals and plant growth regulators*.

This edition (second edition) cancels and replaces the first edition of ISO Recommendation R 257.

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**PRINCIPLES FOR THE SELECTION OF COMMON NAMES  
FOR PEST CONTROL CHEMICALS AND PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS**

**1. SCOPE**

This ISO Recommendation sets out a number of principles for the selection of common names for pest control chemicals and plant growth regulators, together with explanatory notes and examples of the application of certain of the principles.

**2. OBJECT OF COMMON NAMES**

The object of a common name is to provide a short, easily pronounced name for a compound whose full chemical name is too long and complicated, for use in commerce and in official regulations.

**3. STYLE OF WRITING OR PRINTING COMMON NAMES**

The recommended common name should be written or printed in lower case letters (for example, **heptachlor**, **parathion**) except where national usage requires capital initial letters for nouns.

In the exceptional cases where the names are formed from initials, they should be written in capitals without intervening full stops (for example, **MCPA**). If numerals and letters both occur in a common name, the numerals should be separated from one another by commas and from letters by a hyphen (for example, **2,4,5-T**).

**4. PURITY OF CHEMICALS**

The common name should normally apply to the pure chemical of known structure, but in exceptional cases it may be given to a mixture of isomers in which not all the isomers may have established biological activity (for example, **BHC**).

Consideration may be given to the coining of common names for reaction products having an incompletely defined chemical composition but *not* for deliberate mixtures of active ingredients. In cases of doubt, evidence based on tests adequate for distinguishing between compounds and mixtures should be submitted with the request for a common name.

## 5. PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 No compound should be given a common name if its chemical name is reasonably short and distinctive (for example, metaldehyde, carbon tetrachloride, ethylene oxide).
- 5.2 The country of origin should be given the first opportunity to suggest a name.
- 5.3 Common names should be identical in all languages, subject to necessary variation in spelling, inflection, etc.
- 5.4 Common names should be as short as is practicable.
- 5.5 Common names should be distinctive in sound and spelling.

- 5.6 (1) Common names should, if practicable, include one or more syllables that serve as reminders of the scientific chemical name.

Examples of suitable names are :

<b>atrazine</b>	2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-s-triazine
<b>chloropon</b>	2,2,3-trichloropropionic acid
<b>cypromid</b>	3',4'-dichlorocyclopropanecarboxanilide
<b>difenoxuron</b>	3-[ <i>p</i> -( <i>p</i> -methoxyphenoxy)phenyl]-1,1-dimethylurea
<b>dinosulfon</b>	<i>S</i> -methyl <i>O</i> -[2-(1-methylheptyl)-4,6-dinitrophenyl] thiocarbonate
<b>diuron</b>	3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea
<b>morfamquat</b>	1,1'-bis[(3,5-dimethylmorpholino)carbonylmethyl]-4,4'-bipyridilium ion
<b>norbormide</b>	5-( $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -2-pyridylbenzyl)-7-( $\alpha$ -2-pyridylbenzylidene) norborn-5-ene-2,3-dicarboximide
<b>trifluralin</b>	$\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -trifluoro-2,6-dinitro- <i>N,N</i> -dipropyl- <i>p</i> -toluidine

Two consequences of the application of this principle are the desirability of developing syllables for large radicals and the importance of giving in the name a reminder of a distinctive chemical group. Examples are :

<b>azinphos-methyl</b>	<i>S</i> -(3,4-dihydro-4-oxobenzo[ <i>d</i> ]-[1,2,3] triazin-3-ylmethyl) <i>OO</i> -dimethyl phosphorodithioate
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This name suggests the presence of phosphorus and the triazinyl group, and indicates that the compound is a methyl ester.

<b>chlorfenvinphos</b>	2-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)vinyl diethyl phosphate
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Chlorine, the phenyl and vinyl groups, and phosphorus are suggested by this name.

- (2) Common names for organophosphorus compounds should preferably include the syllable "phos" (or "fos").
- 5.7 Common names for salts or esters should normally be given to the parent acid or base. The nature of a salt or ester should be indicated by a suffix. For example, mecoprop-potassium, diquat dichloride. Exceptions include zineb, nabam and most organophosphorus esters.

### 5.8 Common names should :

- (1) not be liable to confusion with commercial trade marks or common names already in use, with names used in international chemical nomenclature, or with names of foods, pharmaceutical products, etc.;
- (2) not be difficult to pronounce or remember;
- (3) not be composed only of initials and/or numbers;

In general, the formation of common names from initials and numbers has been avoided, but exceptions were made of compounds which had become so well known by initials that another name would only cause confusion (for example, **MCPA**).

- (4) not contain syllables of misleading chemical significance.

An example would be for a coined name to end in -ol or -one and yet contain no hydroxyl or ketone group.